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Venus

Romantic Tales of Fantasy

NO. 8 FEB.

10¢

a LOVERS magazine

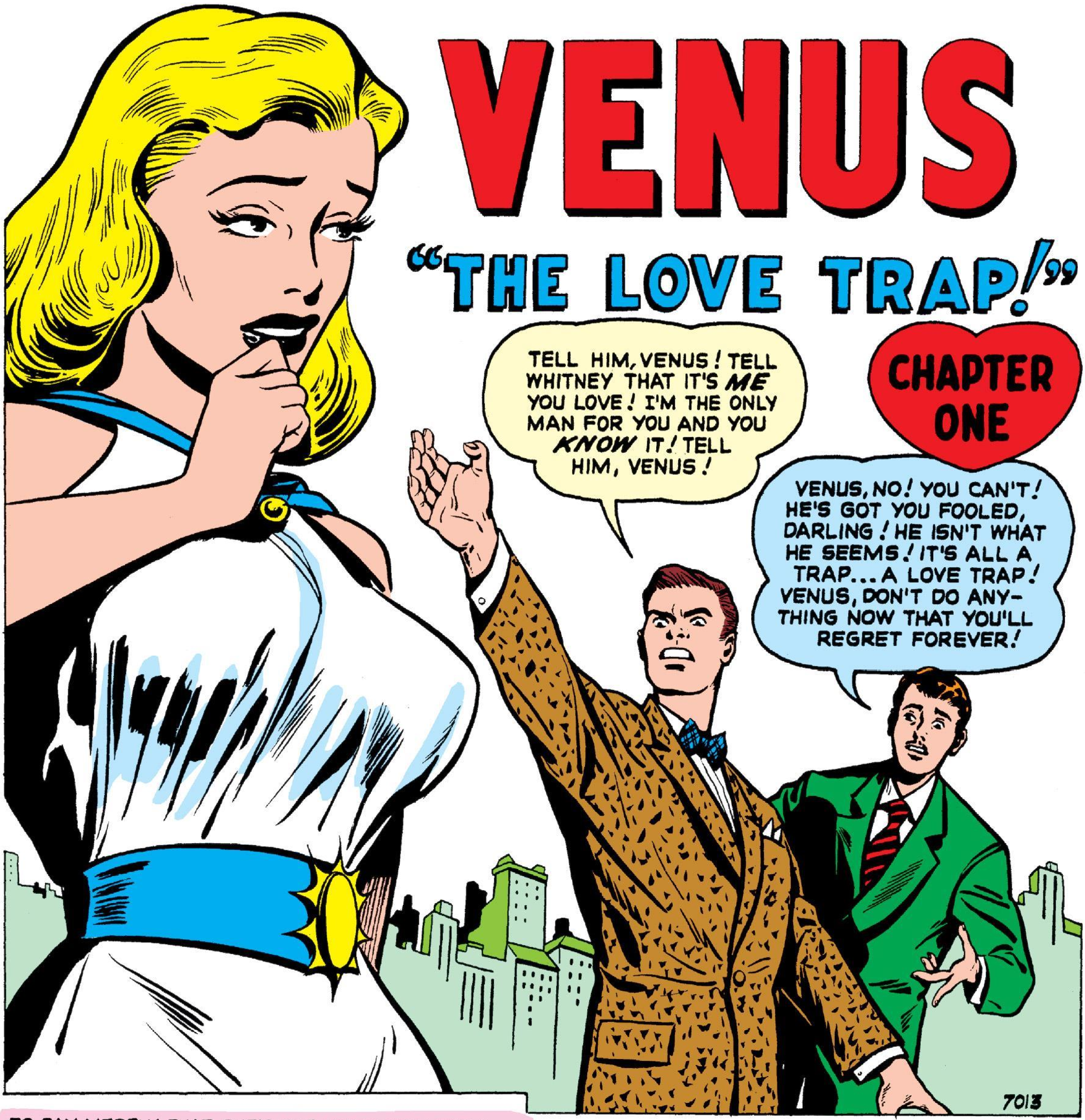
CAN **VENUS** CHARM
HER WAY OUT OF:

THE LOVE TRAP?

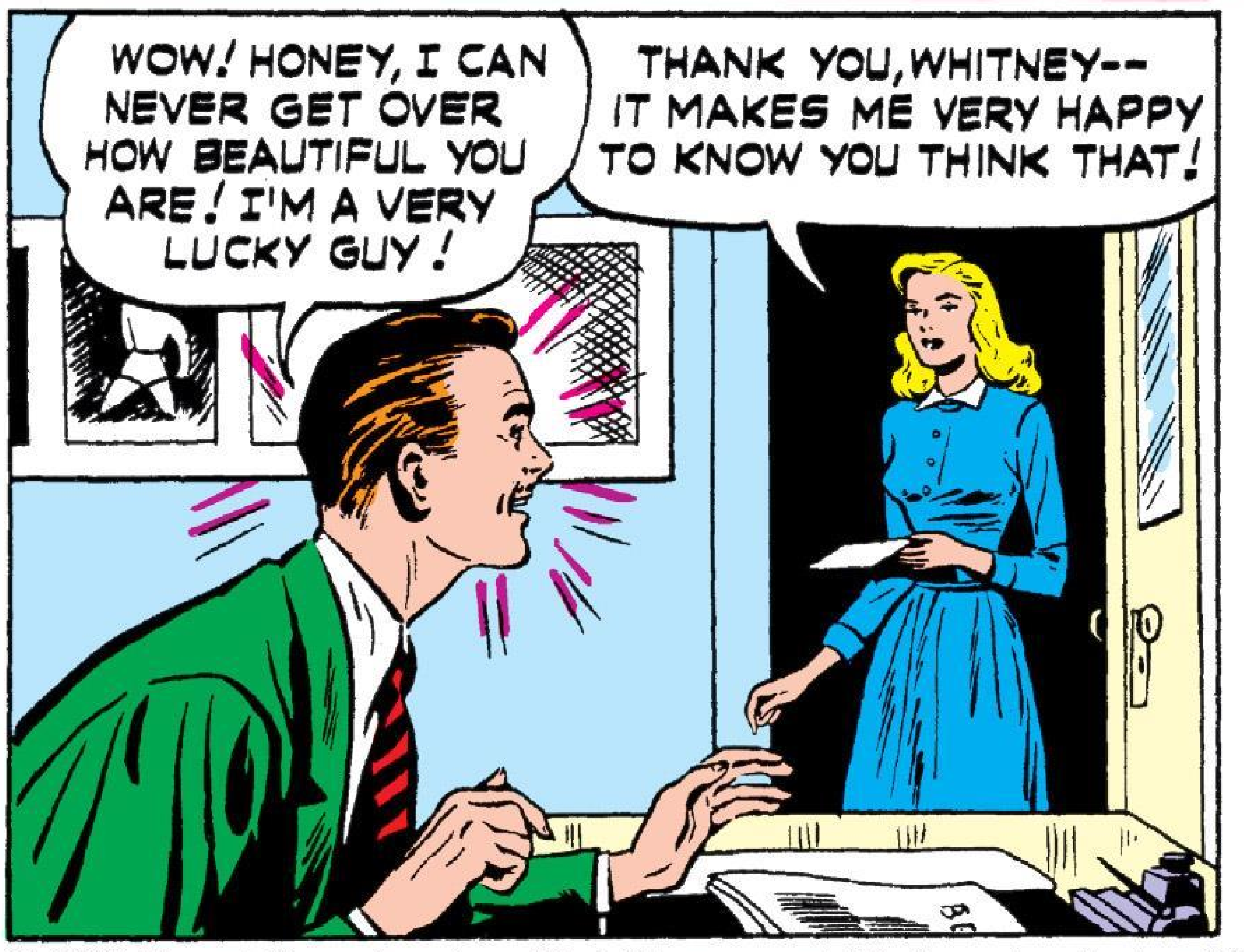
VENUS

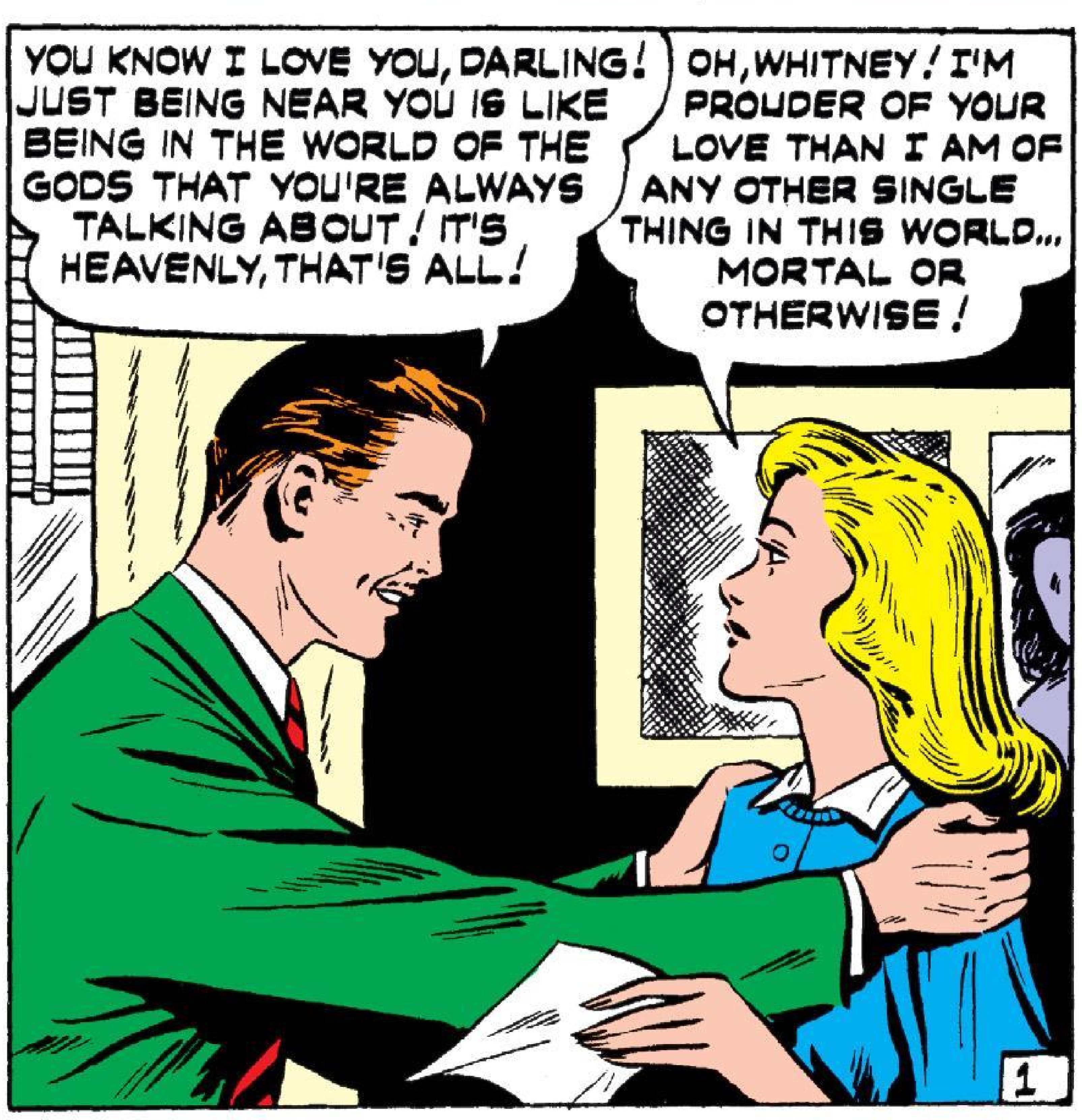
"THE LOVE TRAP!"

CHAPTER ONE


TELL HIM, VENUS! TELL WHITNEY THAT IT'S *ME* YOU LOVE! I'M THE ONLY MAN FOR YOU AND YOU *KNOW* IT! TELL HIM, VENUS!
VENUS, NO! YOU CAN'T! HE'S GOT YOU FOOLED, DARLING! HE ISN'T WHAT HE SEEMS! IT'S ALL A TRAP... A LOVE TRAP! VENUS, DON'T DO ANYTHING NOW THAT YOU'LL REGRET FOREVER!
7013

TO SAY MERELY THAT SHE'S THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN ON EARTH ISN'T DOING HER JUSTICE! FOR VENUS IS MORE THAN A CREATURE OF EARTH, MORE THAN A WOMAN... VENUS IS THE GODDESS OF LOVE AND BEAUTY... HERE, IN EARTHLY FORM, AS EDITOR OF BEAUTY MAGAZINE... PUBLISHED BY THE MAN SHE LOVES -- WHITNEY HAMMOND!


WOW! HONEY, I CAN NEVER GET OVER HOW BEAUTIFUL YOU ARE! I'M A VERY LUCKY GUY!
THANK YOU, WHITNEY-- IT MAKES ME VERY HAPPY TO KNOW YOU THINK THAT!


YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU, DARLING! JUST BEING NEAR YOU IS LIKE BEING IN THE WORLD OF THE GODS THAT YOU'RE ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT! IT'S HEAVENLY, THAT'S ALL!
OH, WHITNEY! I'M PROUDER OF YOUR LOVE THAN I AM OF ANY OTHER SINGLE THING IN THIS WORLD... MORTAL OR OTHERWISE!
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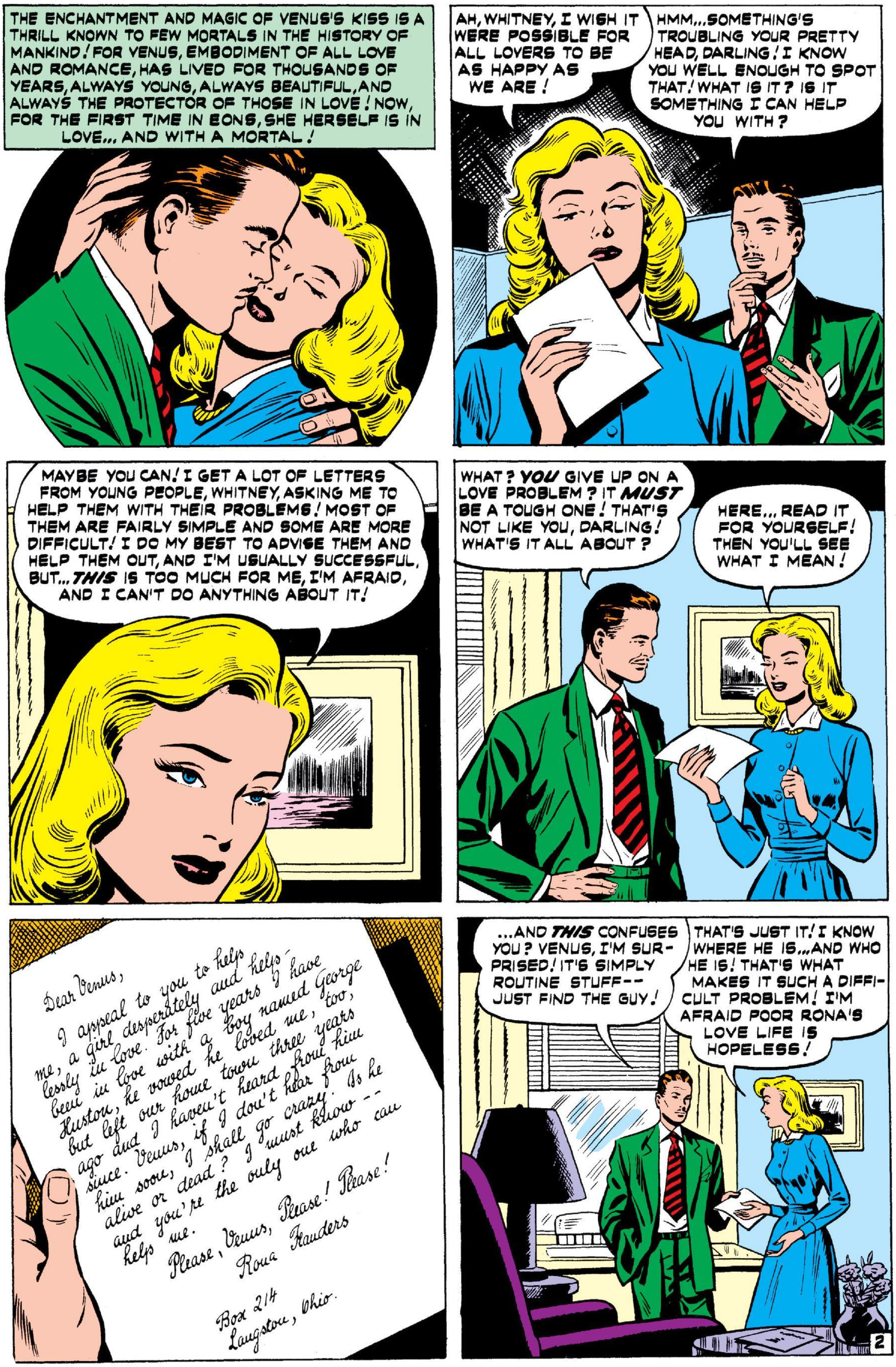

THE ENCHANTMENT AND MAGIC OF VENUS'S KISS IS A THRILL KNOWN TO FEW MORTALS IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND! FOR VENUS, EMBODIMENT OF ALL LOVE AND ROMANCE, HAS LIVED FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, ALWAYS YOUNG, ALWAYS BEAUTIFUL, AND ALWAYS THE PROTECTOR OF THOSE IN LOVE! NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN EONS, SHE HERSELF IS IN LOVE... AND WITH A MORTAL!
AH, WHITNEY, I WISH IT WERE POSSIBLE FOR ALL LOVERS TO BE AS HAPPY AS WE ARE!
HMM... SOMETHING'S TROUBLING YOUR PRETTY HEAD, DARLING! I KNOW YOU WELL ENOUGH TO SPOT THAT! WHAT IS IT? IS IT SOMETHING I CAN HELP YOU WITH?
MAYBE YOU CAN! I GET A LOT OF LETTERS FROM YOUNG PEOPLE, WHITNEY, ASKING ME TO HELP THEM WITH THEIR PROBLEMS! MOST OF THEM ARE FAIRLY SIMPLE AND SOME ARE MORE DIFFICULT! I DO MY BEST TO ADVISE THEM AND HELP THEM OUT, AND I'M USUALLY SUCCESSFUL, BUT... THIS IS TOO MUCH FOR ME, I'M AFRAID, AND I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT!
WHAT? YOU GIVE UP ON A LOVE PROBLEM? IT MUST BE A TOUGH ONE! THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU, DARLING! WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?
HERE... READ IT FOR YOURSELF! THEN YOU'LL SEE WHAT I MEAN!
...AND THIS CONFUSES YOU? VENUS, I'M SURPRISED! IT'S SIMPLY ROUTINE STUFF-- JUST FIND THE GUY!
THAT'S JUST IT! I KNOW WHERE HE IS... AND WHO HE IS! THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT SUCH A DIFFICULT PROBLEM! I'M AFRAID POOR RONA'S LOVE LIFE IS HOPELESS!

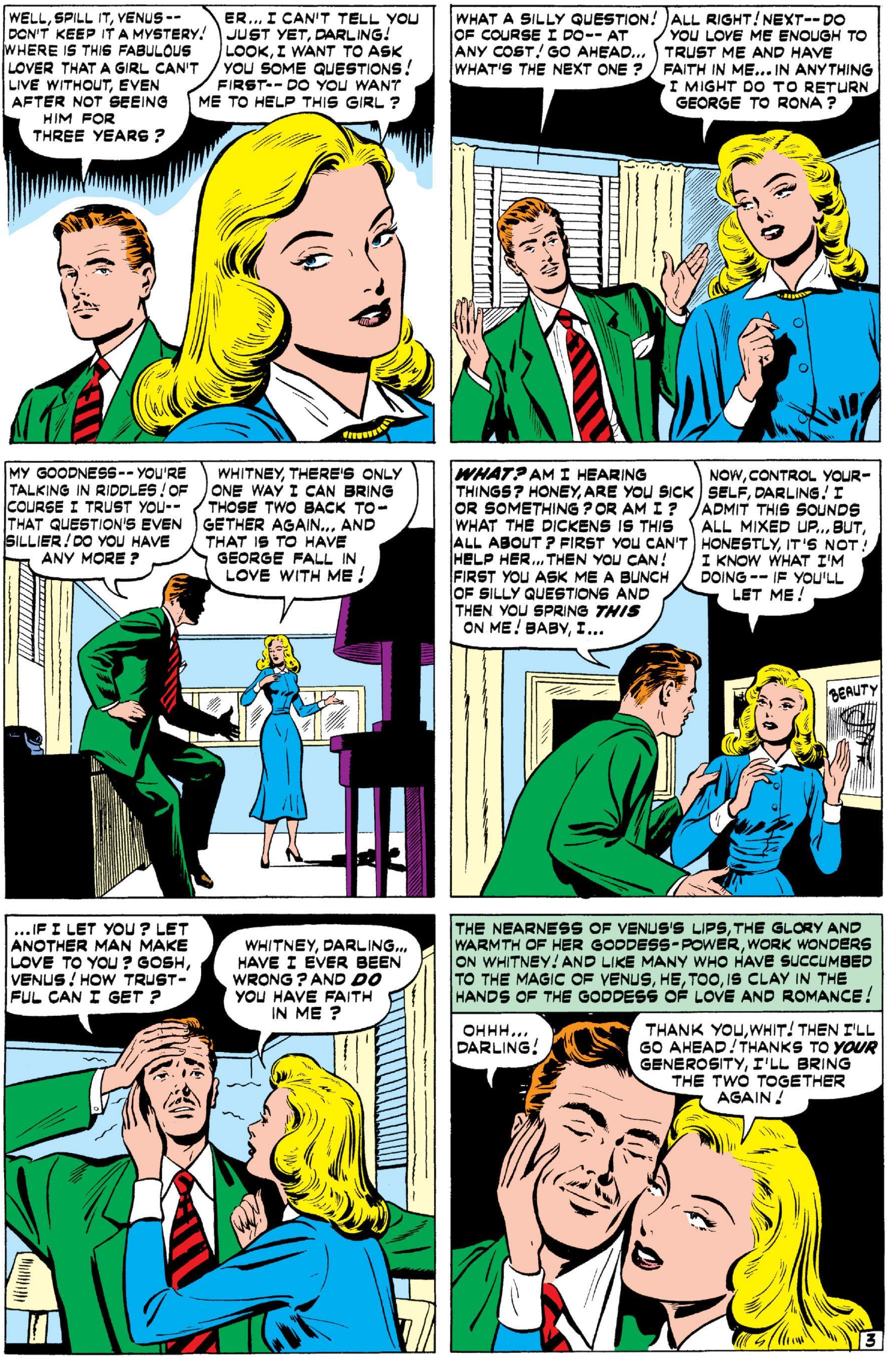
Dear Venus,

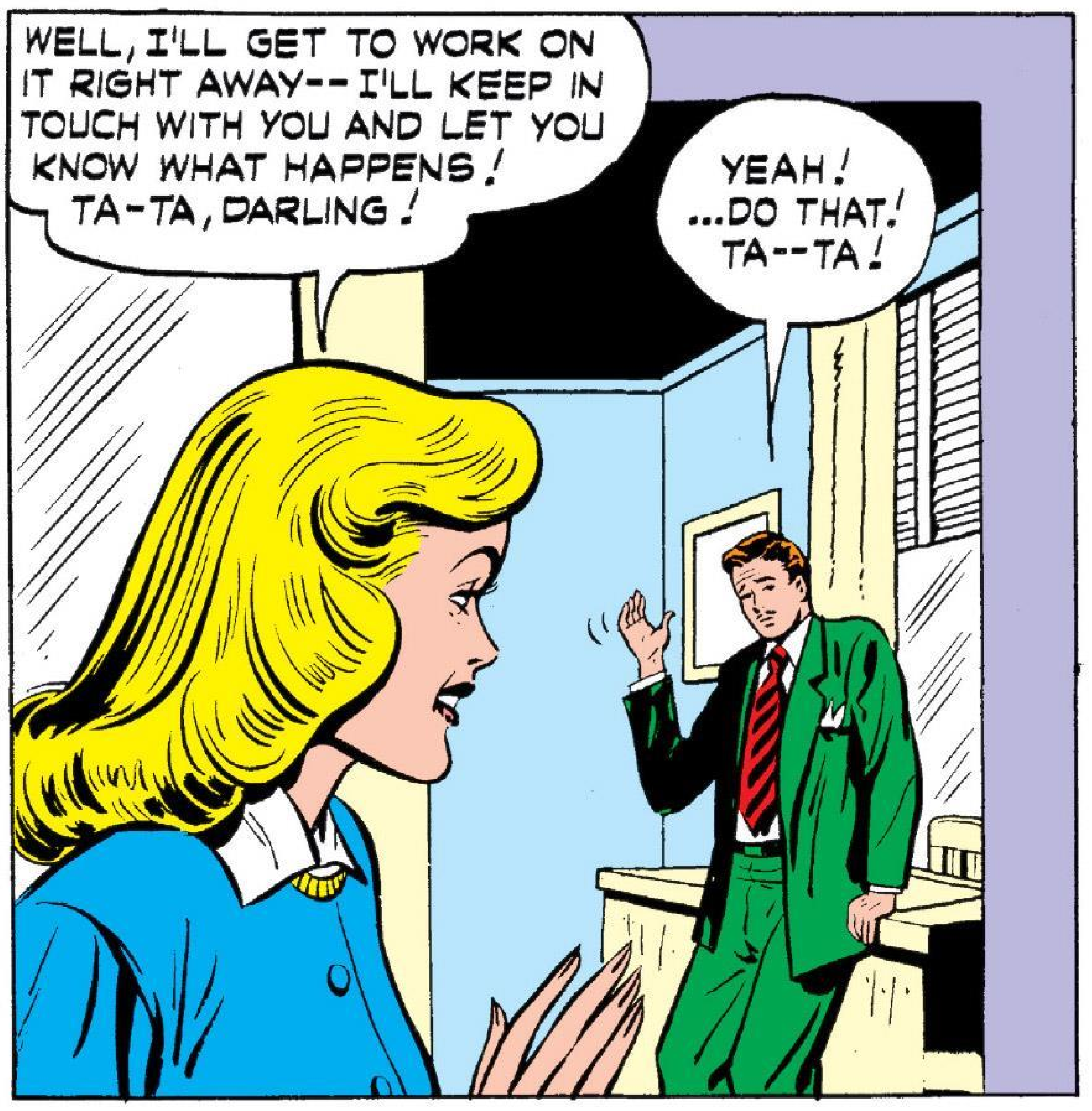
I appeal to you to help me, a girl desperately and hopelessly in love. For five years I have been in love with a boy named George Huston, he vowed he loved me, too, but left our home town three years ago and I haven't heard from him since. Venus, if I don't hear from him soon, I shall go crazy. Is he alive or dead? I must know -- and you're the only one who can help me.

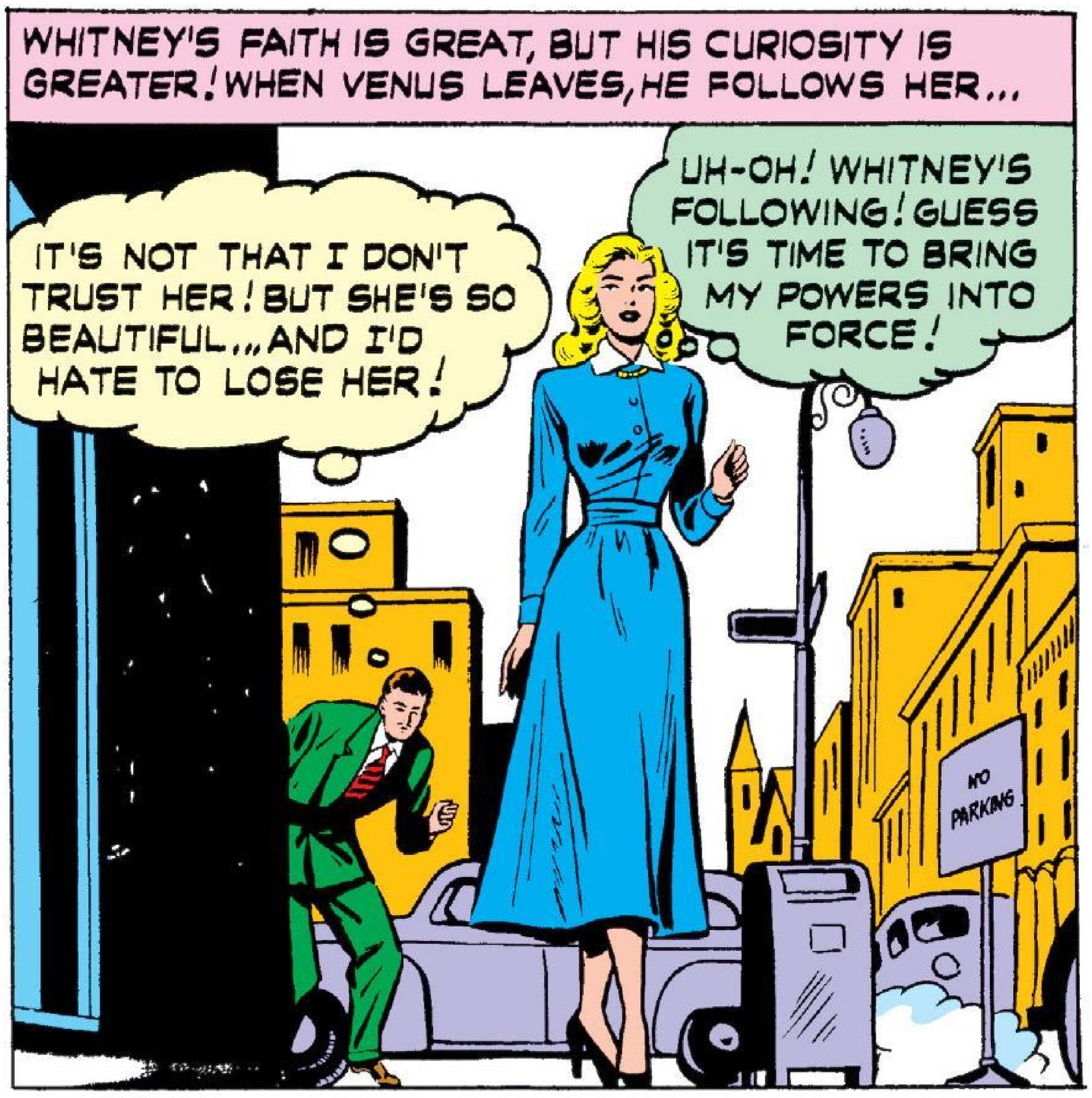
Please, Venus, Please! Please!

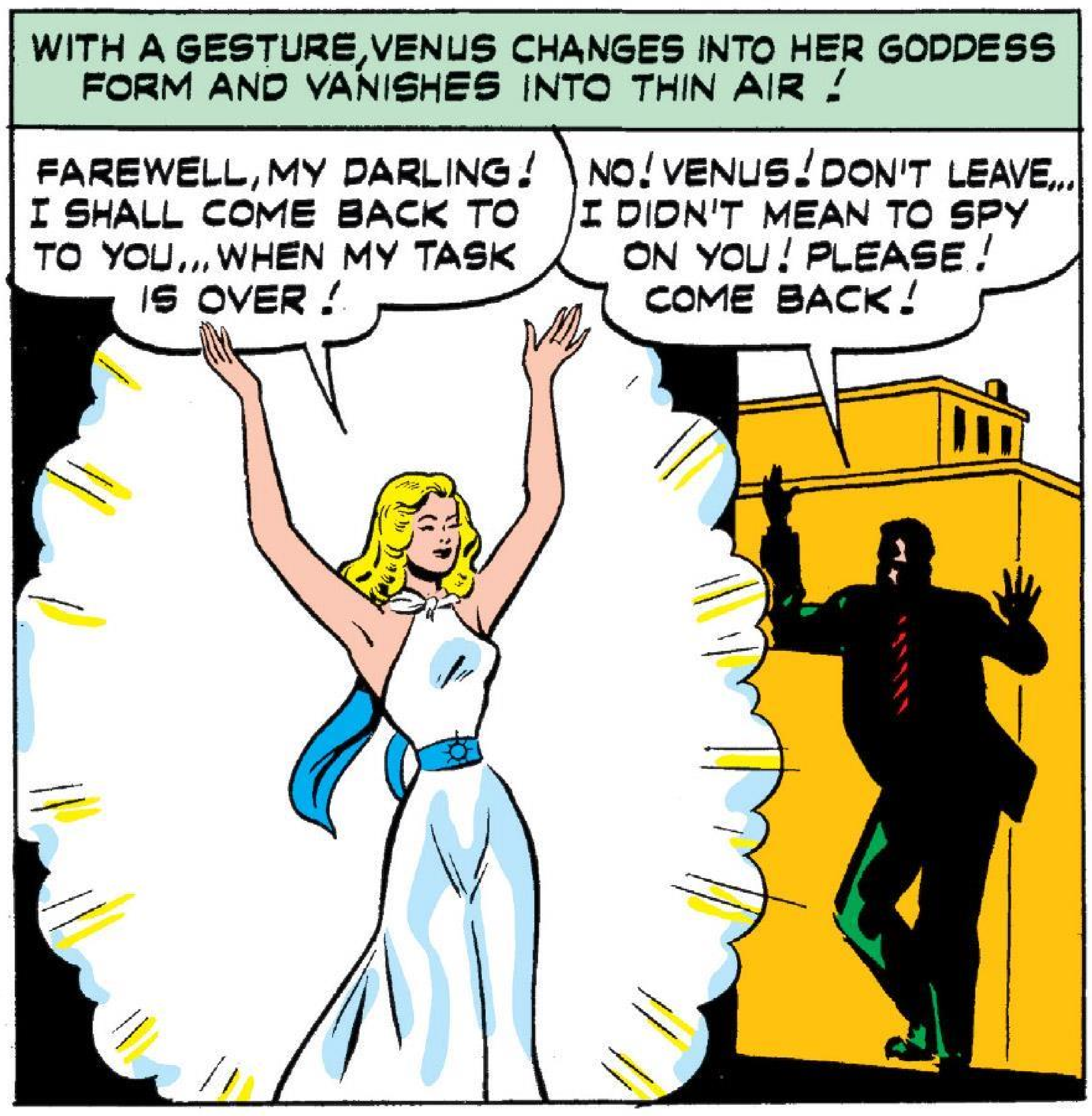
Rona Flanders

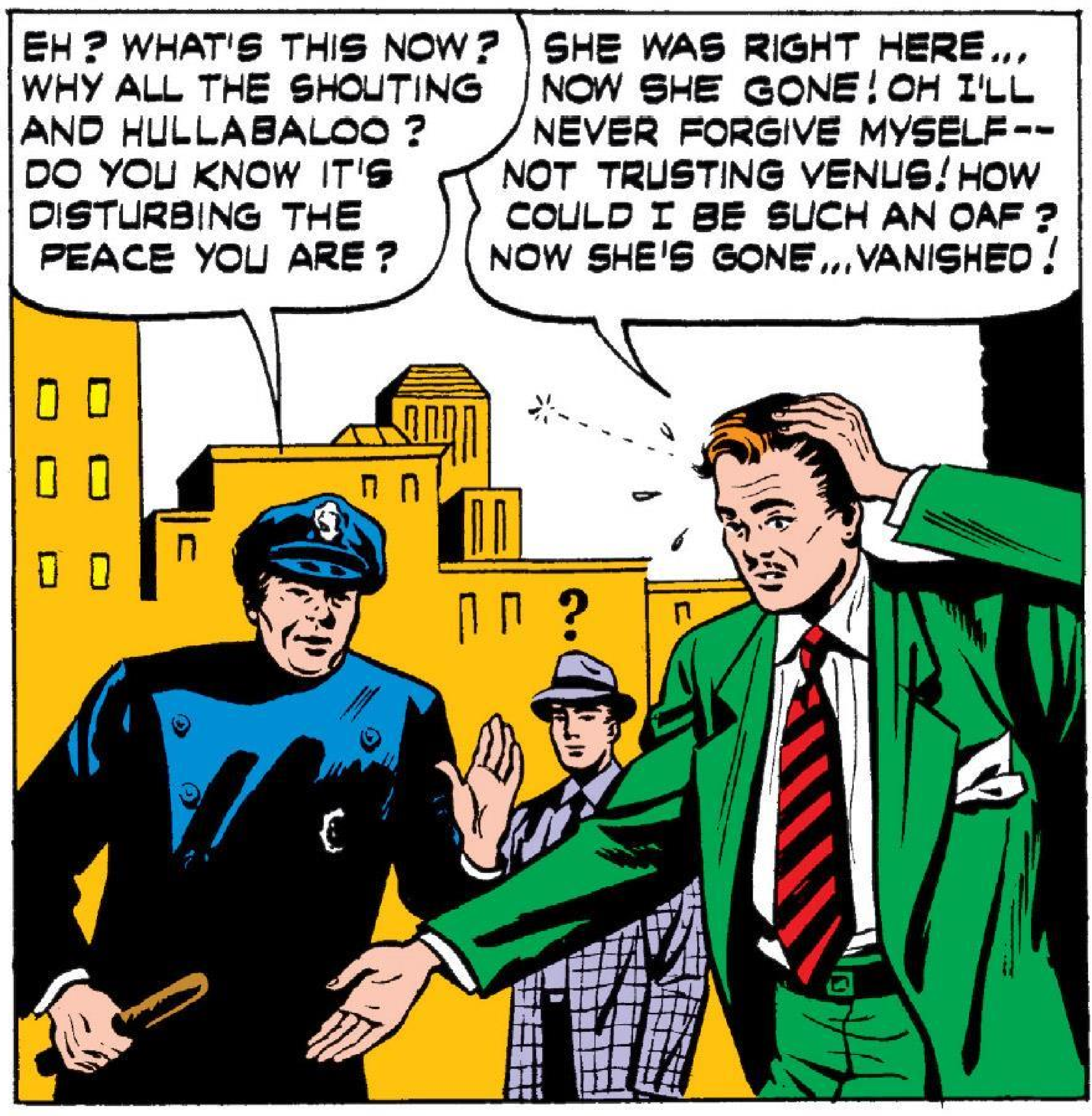
Box 214
Langston, Ohio.


WELL, SPILL IT, VENUS-- DON'T KEEP IT A MYSTERY! WHERE IS THIS FABULOUS LOVER THAT A GIRL CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT, EVEN AFTER NOT SEEING HIM FOR THREE YEARS?
ER... I CAN'T TELL YOU JUST YET, DARLING! LOOK, I WANT TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS! FIRST-- DO YOU WANT ME TO HELP THIS GIRL?
WHAT A SILLY QUESTION! OF COURSE I DO-- AT ANY COST! GO AHEAD... WHAT'S THE NEXT ONE?
ALL RIGHT! NEXT-- DO YOU LOVE ME ENOUGH TO TRUST ME AND HAVE FAITH IN ME... IN ANYTHING I MIGHT DO TO RETURN GEORGE TO RONA?
MY GOODNESS-- YOU'RE TALKING IN RIDDLES! OF COURSE I TRUST YOU-- THAT QUESTION'S EVEN SILLIER! DO YOU HAVE ANY MORE?
WHITNEY, THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY I CAN BRING THOSE TWO BACK TOGETHER AGAIN... AND THAT IS TO HAVE GEORGE FALL IN LOVE WITH ME!
WHAT? AM I HEARING THINGS? HONEY, ARE YOU SICK OR SOMETHING? OR AM I? WHAT THE DICKENS IS THIS ALL ABOUT? FIRST YOU CAN'T HELP HER... THEN YOU CAN! FIRST YOU ASK ME A BUNCH OF SILLY QUESTIONS AND THEN YOU SPRING THIS ON ME! BABY, I...
NOW, CONTROL YOURSELF, DARLING! I ADMIT THIS SOUNDS ALL MIXED UP... BUT, HONESTLY, IT'S NOT! I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING -- IF YOU'LL LET ME!
BEAUTY
...IF I LET YOU? LET ANOTHER MAN MAKE LOVE TO YOU? GOSH, VENUS! HOW TRUSTFUL CAN I GET?
WHITNEY, DARLING... HAVE I EVER BEEN WRONG? AND DO YOU HAVE FAITH IN ME?
THE NEARNESS OF VENUS'S LIPS, THE GLORY AND WARMTH OF HER GODDESS-POWER, WORK WONDERS ON WHITNEY! AND LIKE MANY WHO HAVE SUCCUMBED TO THE MAGIC OF VENUS, HE, TOO, IS CLAY IN THE HANDS OF THE GODDESS OF LOVE AND ROMANCE!
OHHH... DARLING!
THANK YOU, WHIT! THEN I'LL GO AHEAD! THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY, I'LL BRING THE TWO TOGETHER AGAIN!


WELL, I'LL GET TO WORK ON IT RIGHT AWAY-- I'LL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU AND LET YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS! TA-TA, DARLING!
YEAH! ...DO THAT! TA--TA!


WHITNEY'S FAITH IS GREAT, BUT HIS CURIOSITY IS GREATER! WHEN VENUS LEAVES, HE FOLLOWS HER...
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T TRUST HER! BUT SHE'S SO BEAUTIFUL... AND I'D HATE TO LOSE HER!
UH-OH! WHITNEY'S FOLLOWING! GUESS IT'S TIME TO BRING MY POWERS INTO FORCE!
NO PARKING


WITH A GESTURE, VENUS CHANGES INTO HER GODDESS FORM AND VANISHES INTO THIN AIR!
FAREWELL, MY DARLING! I SHALL COME BACK TO TO YOU... WHEN MY TASK IS OVER!
NO! VENUS! DON'T LEAVE... I DIDN'T MEAN TO SPY ON YOU! PLEASE! COME BACK!


EH? WHAT'S THIS NOW? WHY ALL THE SHOUTING AND HULLABALOO? DO YOU KNOW IT'S DISTURBING THE PEACE YOU ARE?
SHE WAS RIGHT HERE... NOW SHE GONE! OH I'LL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF-- NOT TRUSTING VENUS! HOW COULD I BE SUCH AN OAF? NOW SHE'S GONE... VANISHED!
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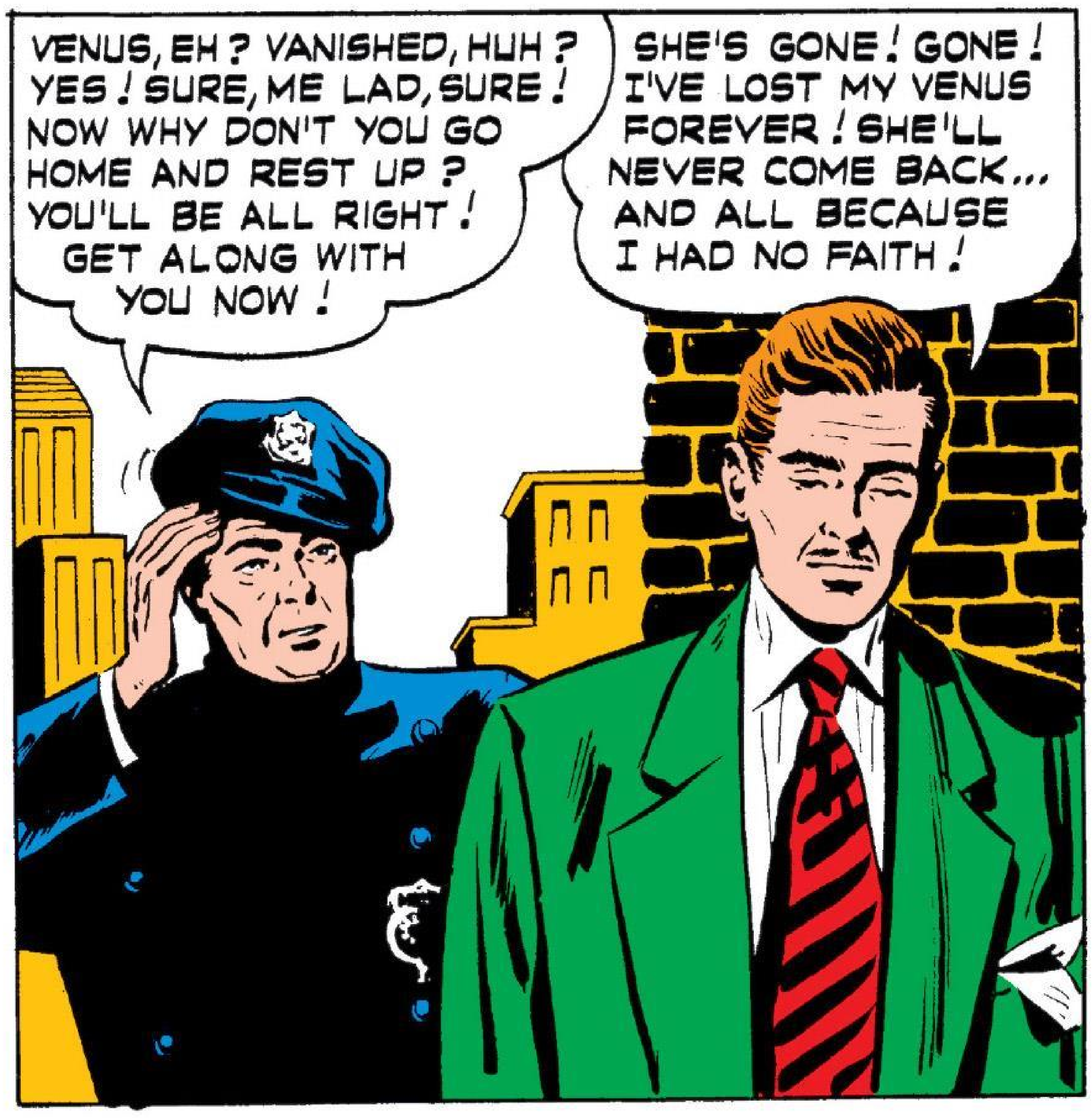
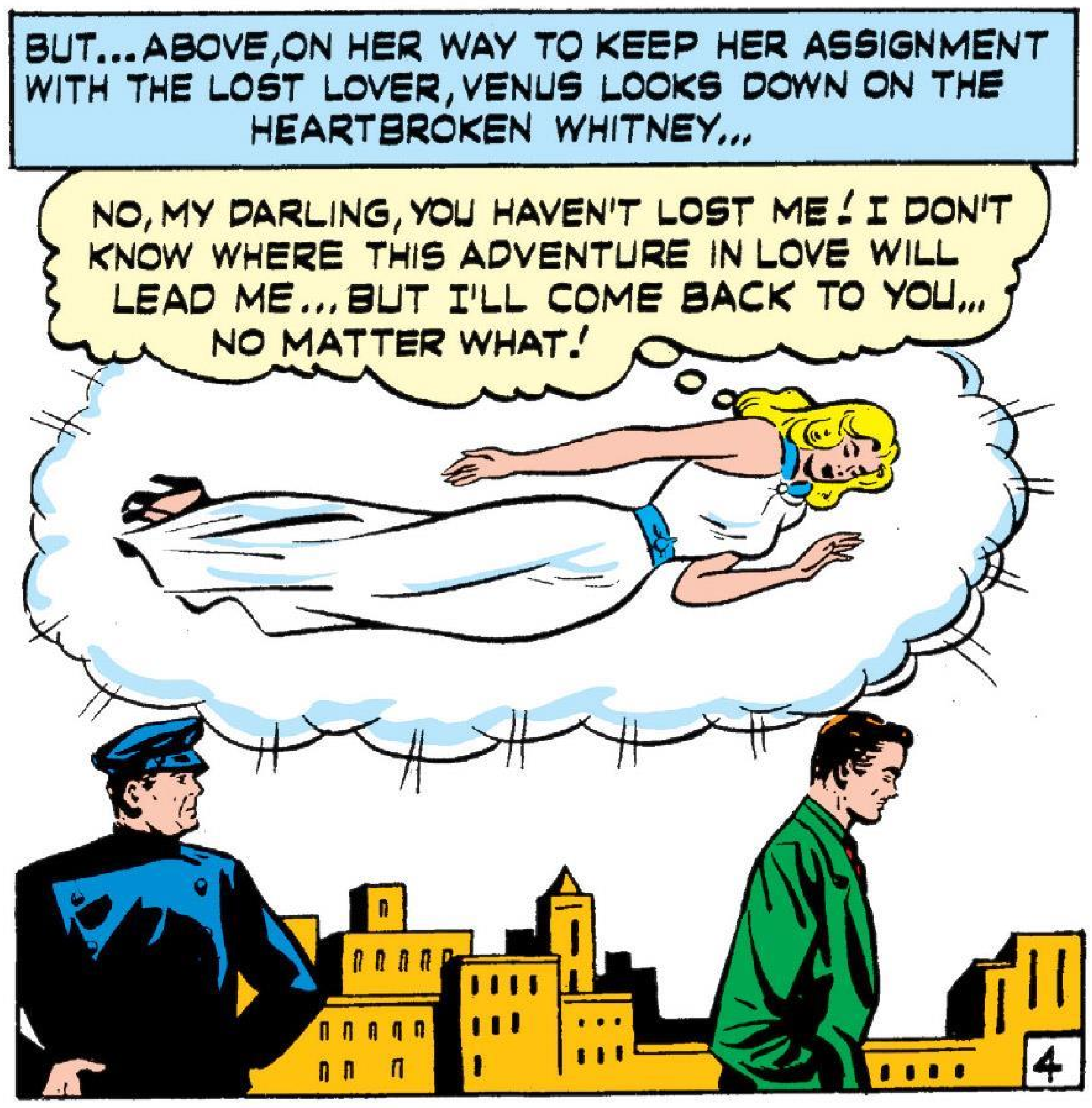
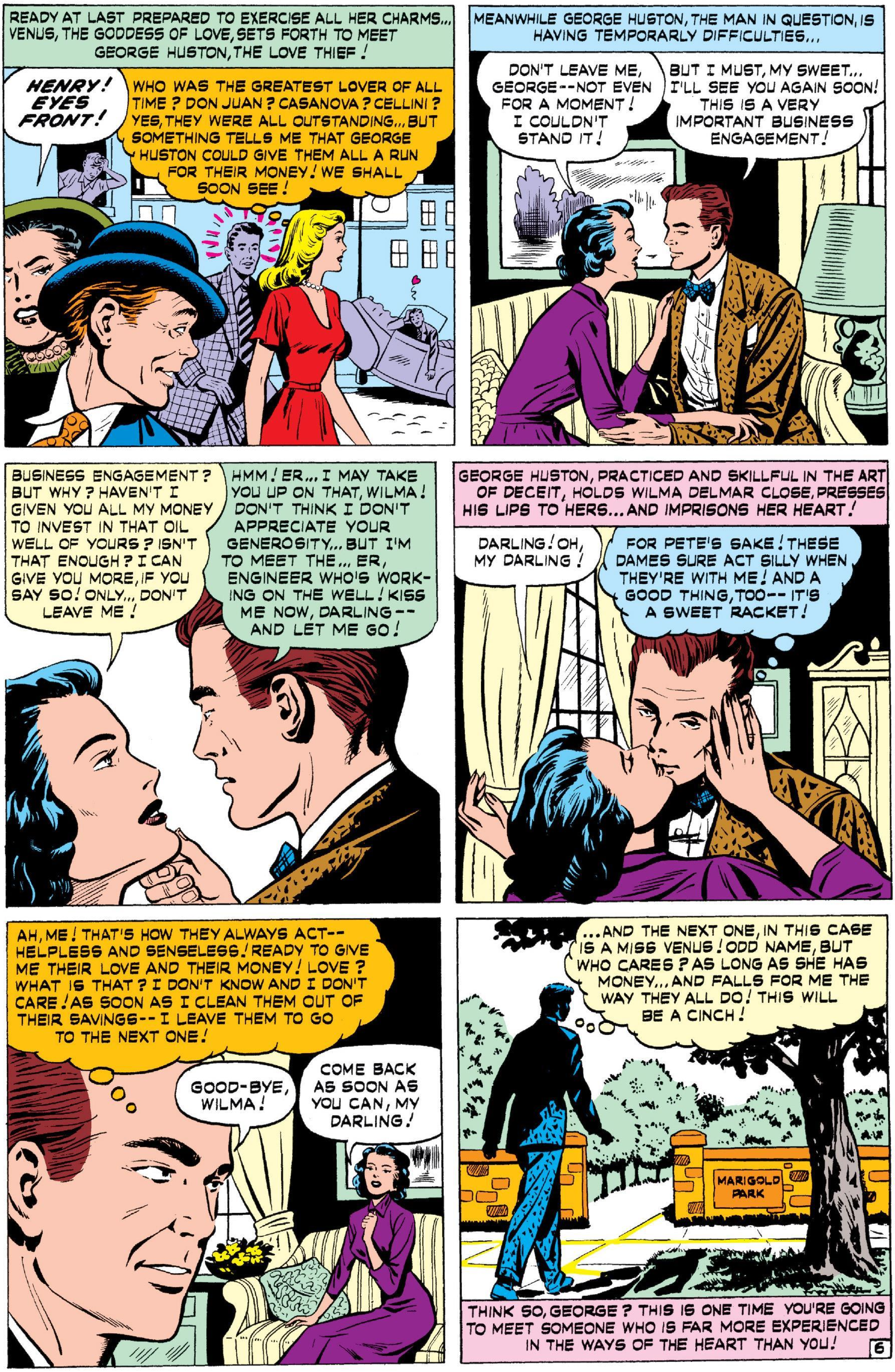
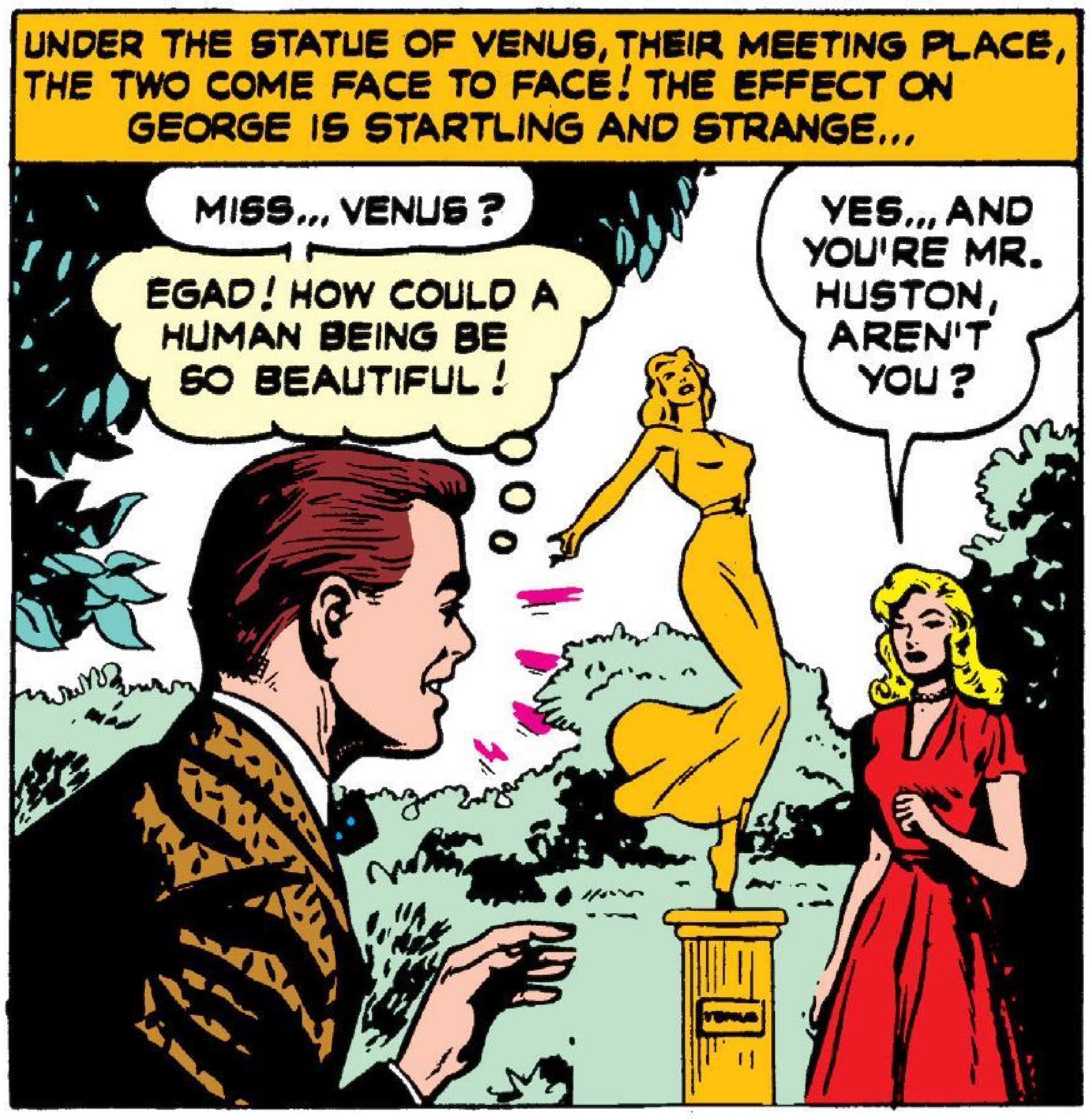
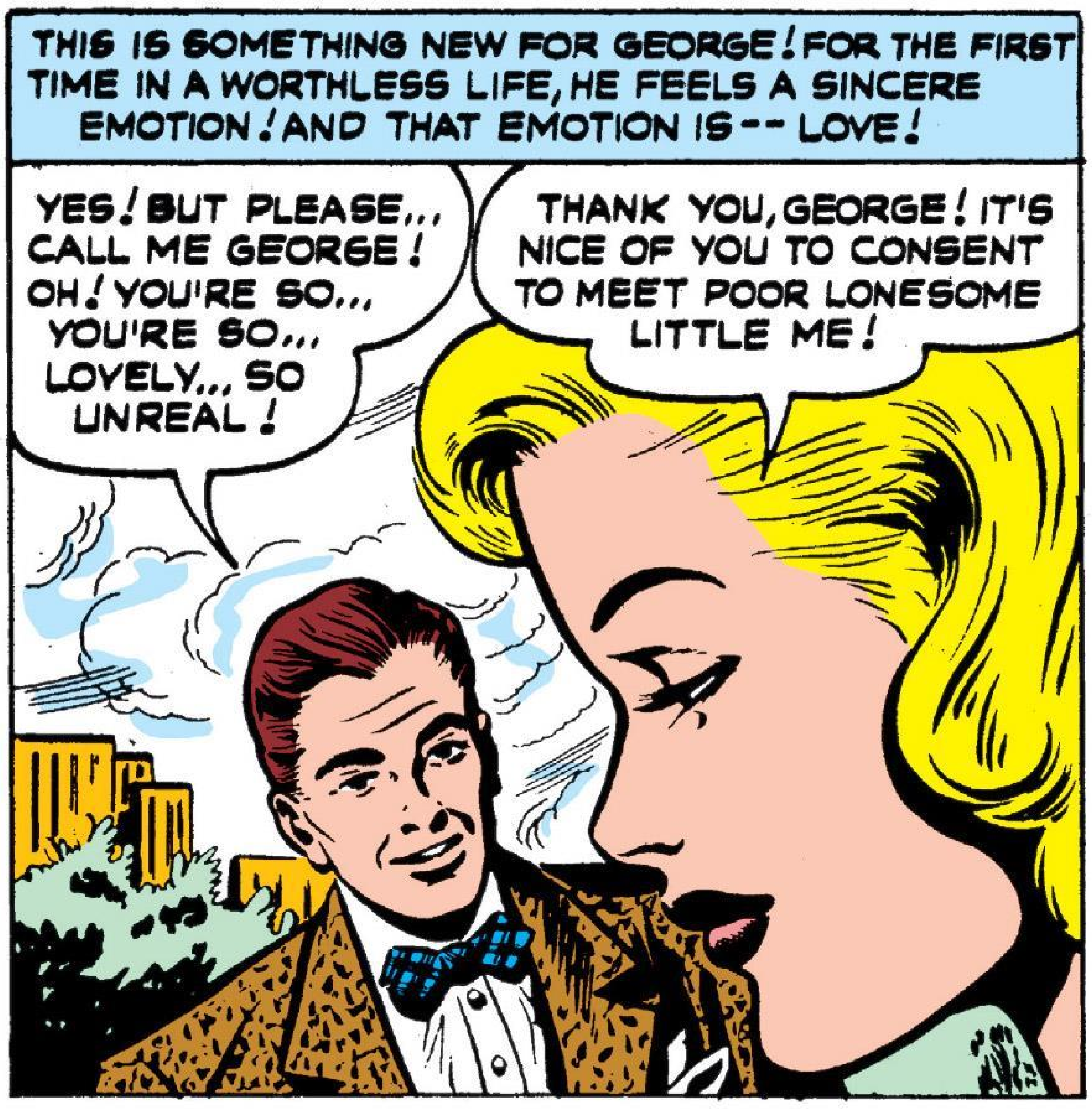

VENUS, EH? VANISHED, HUH? YES! SURE, ME LAD, SURE! NOW WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME AND REST UP? YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT! GET ALONG WITH YOU NOW!
SHE'S GONE! GONE! I'VE LOST MY VENUS FOREVER! SHE'LL NEVER COME BACK... AND ALL BECAUSE I HAD NO FAITH!

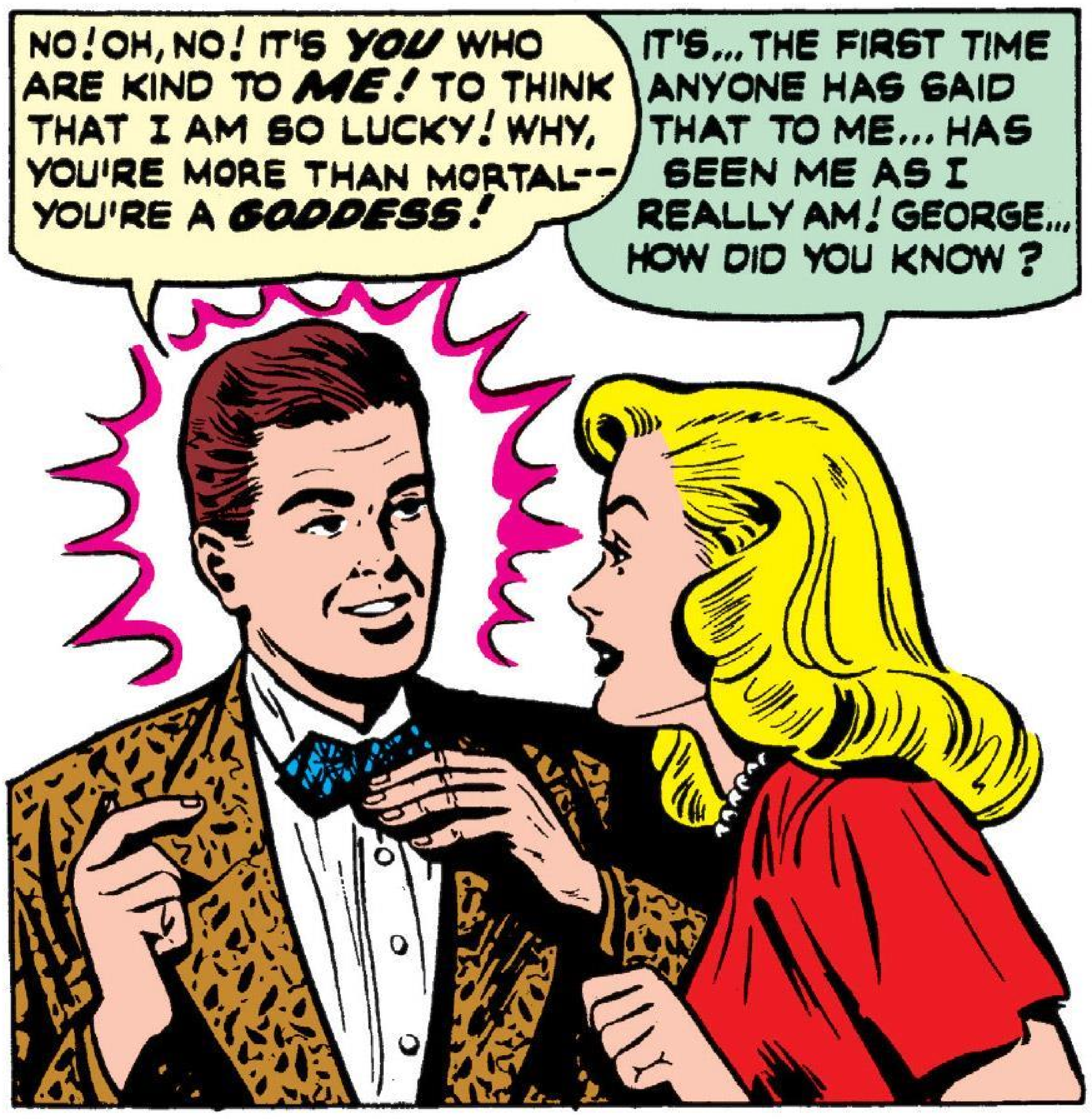

BUT...ABOVE, ON HER WAY TO KEEP HER ASSIGNMENT WITH THE LOST LOVER, VENUS LOOKS DOWN ON THE HEARTBROKEN WHITNEY...
NO, MY DARLING, YOU HAVEN'T LOST ME! I DON'T KNOW WHERE THIS ADVENTURE IN LOVE WILL LEAD ME... BUT I'LL COME BACK TO YOU... NO MATTER WHAT!

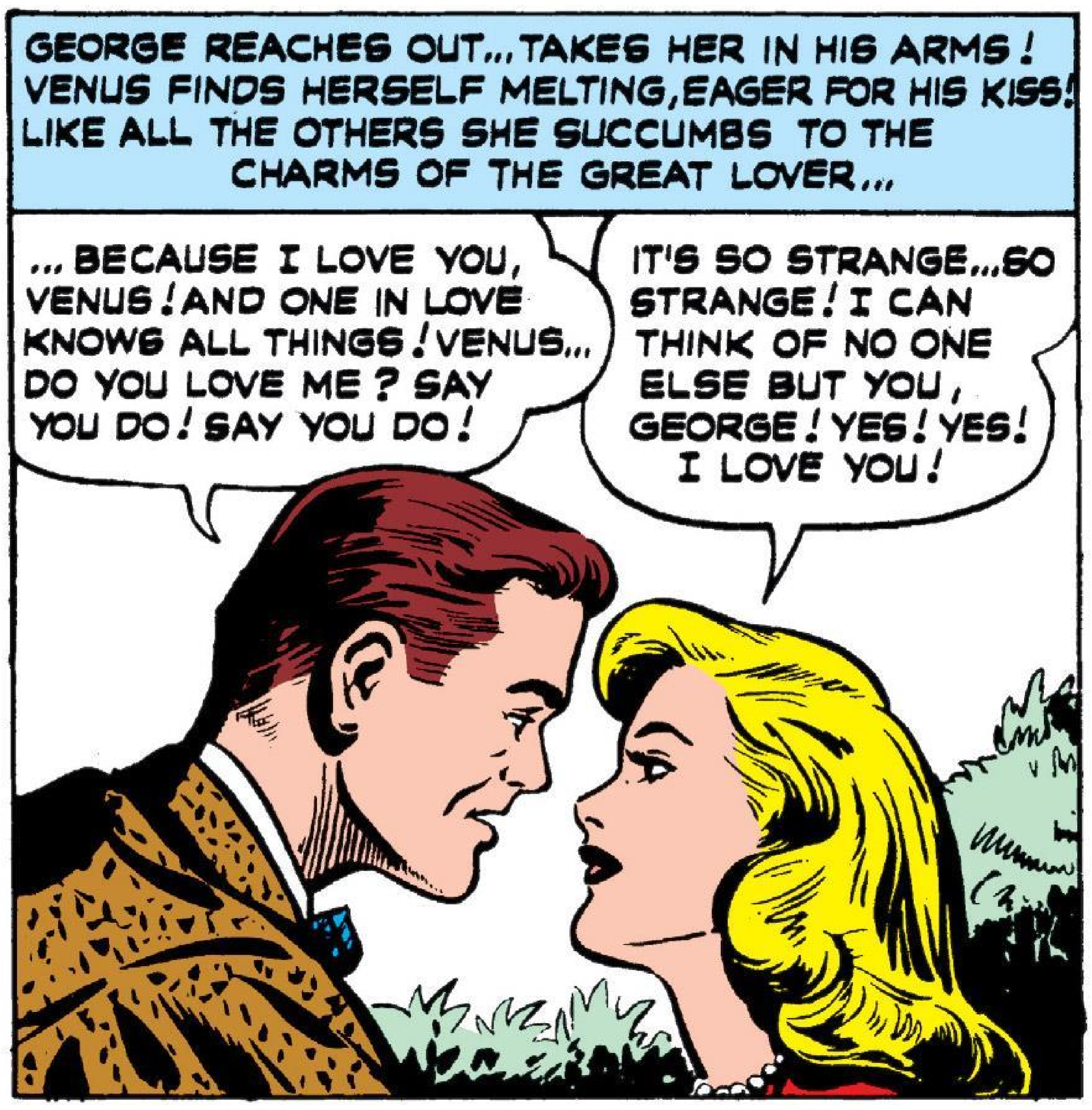
ALONE AT LAST, VENUS GOES TO HER APARTMENT! THERE SHE PICKS UP A LETTER, READS IT AGAIN...
My dear Miss Venus, In answer to your ad in the Lonely Lovers Club magazine, I would like to meet you. I am twenty-five years old, six feet tall and weigh 185 lbs. I am of a pleasant disposition, but lonely. Shall we say Monday at six o'clock at the statue of Venus in Marigold Park? That seems appropriate, doesn't it? Yours forever, George Huston.
THAT'S THE ONE! THAT'S THE GEORGE HUSTON THAT RONA FLANDERS IS LOOKING FOR! BUT IF SHE REALLY KNEW WHO AND WHAT HE IS NOW, SHE'D DIE OF A BROKEN HEART! I'VE GOT TO SAVE THEM BOTH... WITH EVERY POWER IN MY COMMAND!
WITH MY POWERS OF KNOWLEDGE, I FOUND OUT WHERE I COULD LOCATE THIS BOY! THEN I INSERTED AN AD IN HIS FAVORITE MAGAZINE... THAT'S HOW HE MEETS HIS VICTIMS! I GOT DOZENS OF REPLIES... BUT THE ONLY ONE I'M INTERESTED IN IS GEORGE HUSTON!
HE'S A COLD, CALCULATING SCHEMER WHO PREYS ON THE EMOTIONS OF LOVELORN WOMEN AND ROBS THEM OF THEIR SAVINGS WITH FALSE PROMISES! POOR RONA! IF SHE KNEW THE MAN SHE'S BEEN IN LOVE WITH ALL THESE YEARS! HE'S INCAPABLE OF FEELING GENUINE LOVE! HE'S SELFISH, CRUEL, CYNICAL... OH, HOW COULD ONE PERSON BE SO MEAN?
I DON'T KNOW IF MY IDEA WILL WORK, BUT IT'S THE ONLY ONE I CAN THINK OF! AT LEAST I CAN TRY! I MUST TEACH GEORGE WHAT LOVE REALLY IS! MAYBE THEN THERE WILL BE SOME HOPE FOR HIM... AND FOR RONA! I WONDER... CAN I MAKE HIM FALL IN LOVE WITH ME?
VENUS, YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH MUCH IN YOUR EXISTENCE, BUT THIS IS SOMETHING DIFFERENT--MAKING A MAN FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU SO HE WILL LEARN HOW TO LOVE SOMEONE WHO LOVES HIM! WHEW! I HOPE THIS DOESN'T TURN OUT TO BE TOO MUCH FOR YOU...

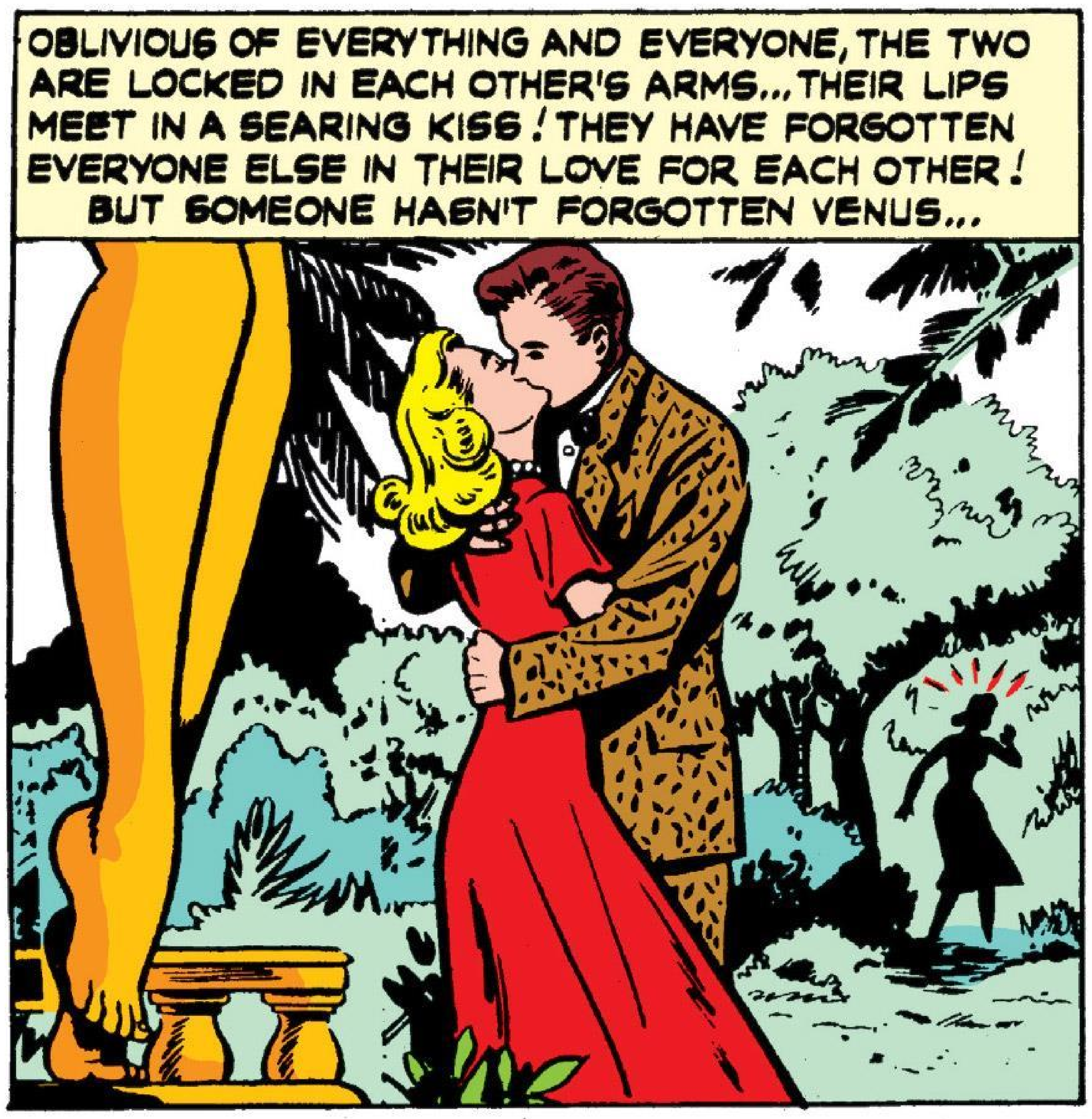

READY AT LAST PREPARED TO EXERCISE ALL HER CHARMS... VENUS, THE GODDESS OF LOVE, SETS FORTH TO MEET GEORGE HUSTON, THE LOVE THIEF!
HENRY! EYES FRONT!
WHO WAS THE GREATEST LOVER OF ALL TIME? DON JUAN? CASANOVA? CELLINI? YES, THEY WERE ALL OUTSTANDING... BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT GEORGE HUSTON COULD GIVE THEM ALL A RUN FOR THEIR MONEY! WE SHALL SOON SEE!
MEANWHILE GEORGE HUSTON, THE MAN IN QUESTION, IS HAVING TEMPORARILY DIFFICULTIES...
DON'T LEAVE ME, GEORGE--NOT EVEN FOR A MOMENT! I COULDN'T STAND IT!
BUT I MUST, MY SWEET... I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN SOON! THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT!
BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT? BUT WHY? HAVEN'T I GIVEN YOU ALL MY MONEY TO INVEST IN THAT OIL WELL OF YOURS? ISN'T THAT ENOUGH? I CAN GIVE YOU MORE, IF YOU SAY SO! ONLY... DON'T LEAVE ME!
HMM! ER... I MAY TAKE YOU UP ON THAT, WILMA! DON'T THINK I DON'T APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROSITY... BUT I'M TO MEET THE... ER, ENGINEER WHO'S WORKING ON THE WELL! KISS ME NOW, DARLING--AND LET ME GO!
GEORGE HUSTON, PRACTICED AND SKILLFUL IN THE ART OF DECEIT, HOLDS WILMA DELMAR CLOSE, PRESSES HIS LIPS TO HERS... AND IMPRISONS HER HEART!
DARLING! OH, MY DARLING!
FOR PETE'S SAKE! THESE DAMES SURE ACT SILLY WHEN THEY'RE WITH ME! AND A GOOD THING, TOO-- IT'S A SWEET RACKET!
AH, ME! THAT'S HOW THEY ALWAYS ACT--HELPLESS AND SENSELESS! READY TO GIVE ME THEIR LOVE AND THEIR MONEY! LOVE? WHAT IS THAT? I DON'T KNOW AND I DON'T CARE! AS SOON AS I CLEAN THEM OUT OF THEIR SAVINGS-- I LEAVE THEM TO GO TO THE NEXT ONE!
GOOD-BYE, WILMA!
COME BACK AS SOON AS YOU CAN, MY DARLING!
...AND THE NEXT ONE, IN THIS CASE IS A MISS VENUS! ODD NAME, BUT WHO CARES? AS LONG AS SHE HAS MONEY... AND FALLS FOR ME THE WAY THEY ALL DO! THIS WILL BE A CINCH!
MARIGOLD PARK
THINK SO, GEORGE? THIS IS ONE TIME YOU'RE GOING TO MEET SOMEONE WHO IS FAR MORE EXPERIENCED IN THE WAYS OF THE HEART THAN YOU!

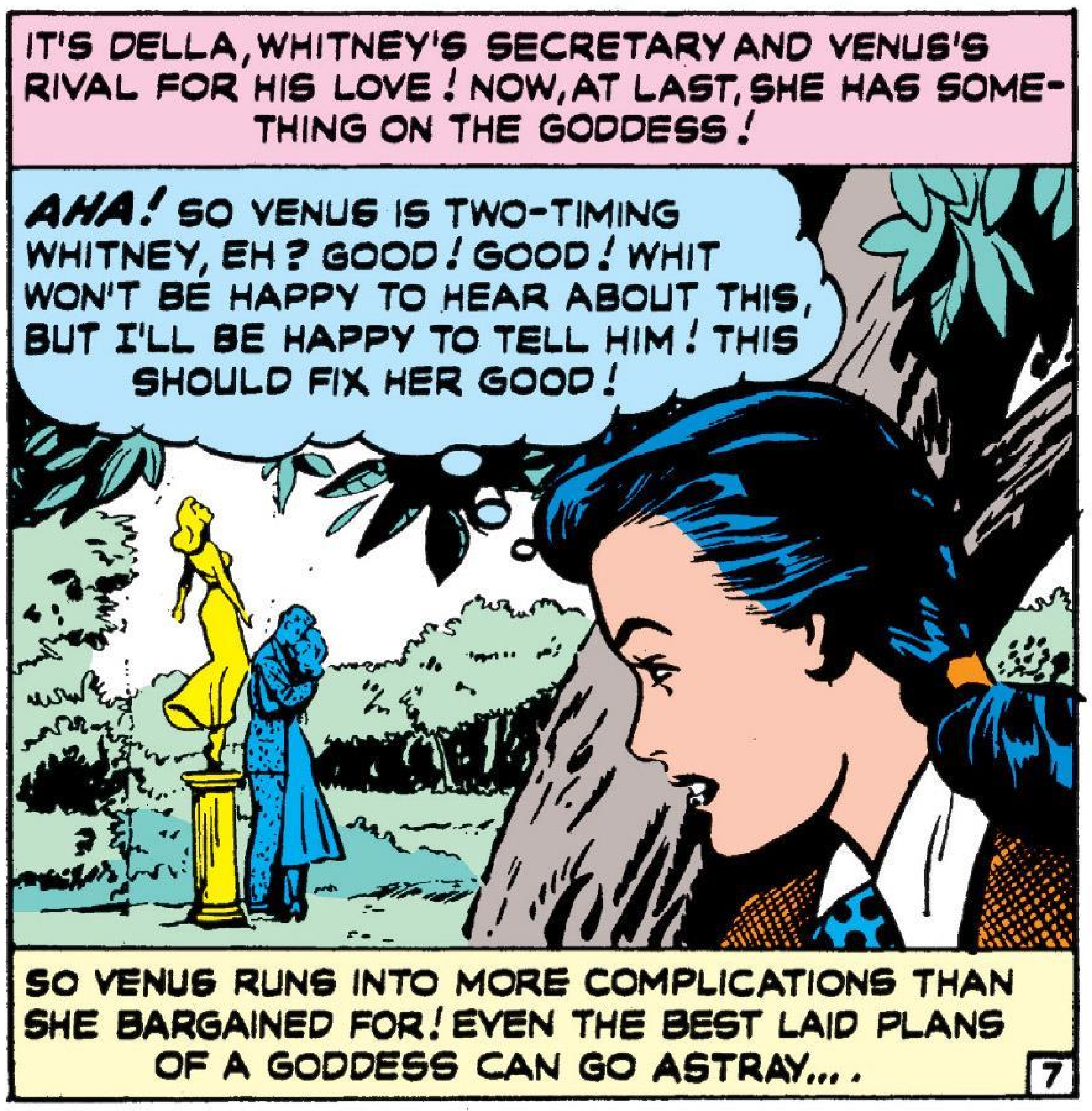

UNDER THE STATUE OF VENUS, THEIR MEETING PLACE, THE TWO COME FACE TO FACE! THE EFFECT ON GEORGE IS STARTLING AND STRANGE...
MISS... VENUS?
EGAD! HOW COULD A HUMAN BEING BE SO BEAUTIFUL!
YES... AND YOU'RE MR. HUSTON, AREN'T YOU?
VENUS

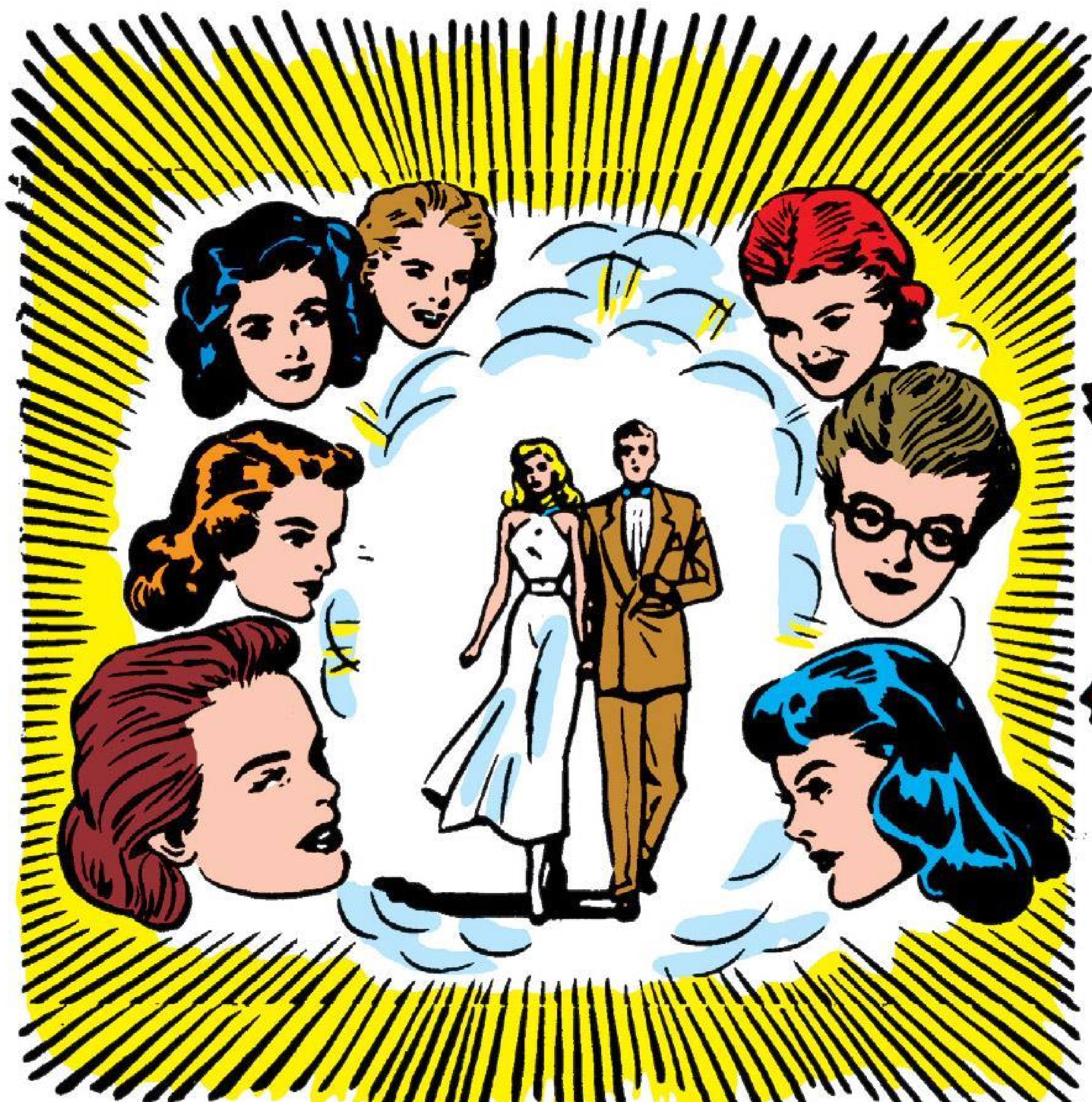

THIS IS SOMETHING NEW FOR GEORGE! FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WORTHLESS LIFE, HE FEELS A SINCERE EMOTION! AND THAT EMOTION IS -- LOVE!
YES! BUT PLEASE... CALL ME GEORGE! OH! YOU'RE SO... YOU'RE SO... LOVELY... SO UNREAL!
THANK YOU, GEORGE! IT'S NICE OF YOU TO CONSENT TO MEET POOR LONESOME LITTLE ME!


NO! OH, NO! IT'S YOU WHO ARE KIND TO ME! TO THINK THAT I AM SO LUCKY! WHY, YOU'RE MORE THAN MORTAL-- YOU'RE A GODDESS!
IT'S... THE FIRST TIME ANYONE HAS SAID THAT TO ME... HAS SEEN ME AS I REALLY AM! GEORGE... HOW DID YOU KNOW?


GEORGE REACHES OUT... TAKES HER IN HIS ARMS! VENUS FINDS HERSELF MELTING, EAGER FOR HIS KISS! LIKE ALL THE OTHERS SHE SUCCUMBS TO THE CHARMS OF THE GREAT LOVER...
... BECAUSE I LOVE YOU, VENUS! AND ONE IN LOVE KNOWS ALL THINGS! VENUS... DO YOU LOVE ME? SAY YOU DO! SAY YOU DO!
IT'S SO STRANGE... SO STRANGE! I CAN THINK OF NO ONE ELSE BUT YOU, GEORGE! YES! YES! I LOVE YOU!


OBLIVIOUS OF EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE, THE TWO ARE LOCKED IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS... THEIR LIPS MEET IN A SEARING KISS! THEY HAVE FORGOTTEN EVERYONE ELSE IN THEIR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER! BUT SOMEONE HASN'T FORGOTTEN VENUS...

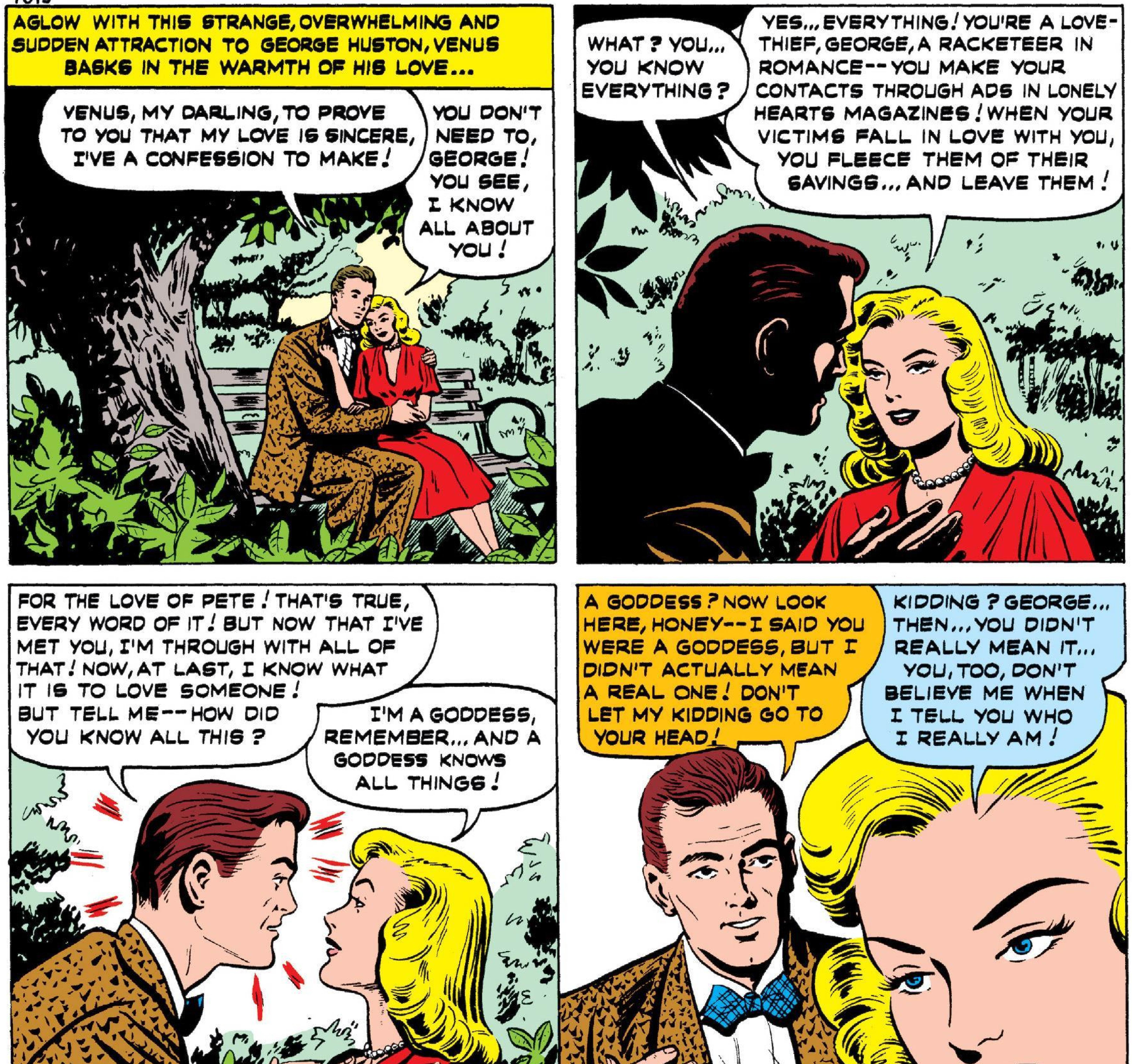

IT'S DELLA, WHITNEY'S SECRETARY AND VENUS'S RIVAL FOR HIS LOVE! NOW, AT LAST, SHE HAS SOMETHING ON THE GODDESS!
AHA! SO VENUS IS TWO-TIMING WHITNEY, EH? GOOD! GOOD! WHIT WON'T BE HAPPY TO HEAR ABOUT THIS, BUT I'LL BE HAPPY TO TELL HIM! THIS SHOULD FIX HER GOOD!
SO VENUS RUNS INTO MORE COMPLICATIONS THAN SHE BARGAINED FOR! EVEN THE BEST LAID PLANS OF A GODDESS CAN GO ASTRAY....



VENUS

PRISONER OF LOVE!

CHAPTER 2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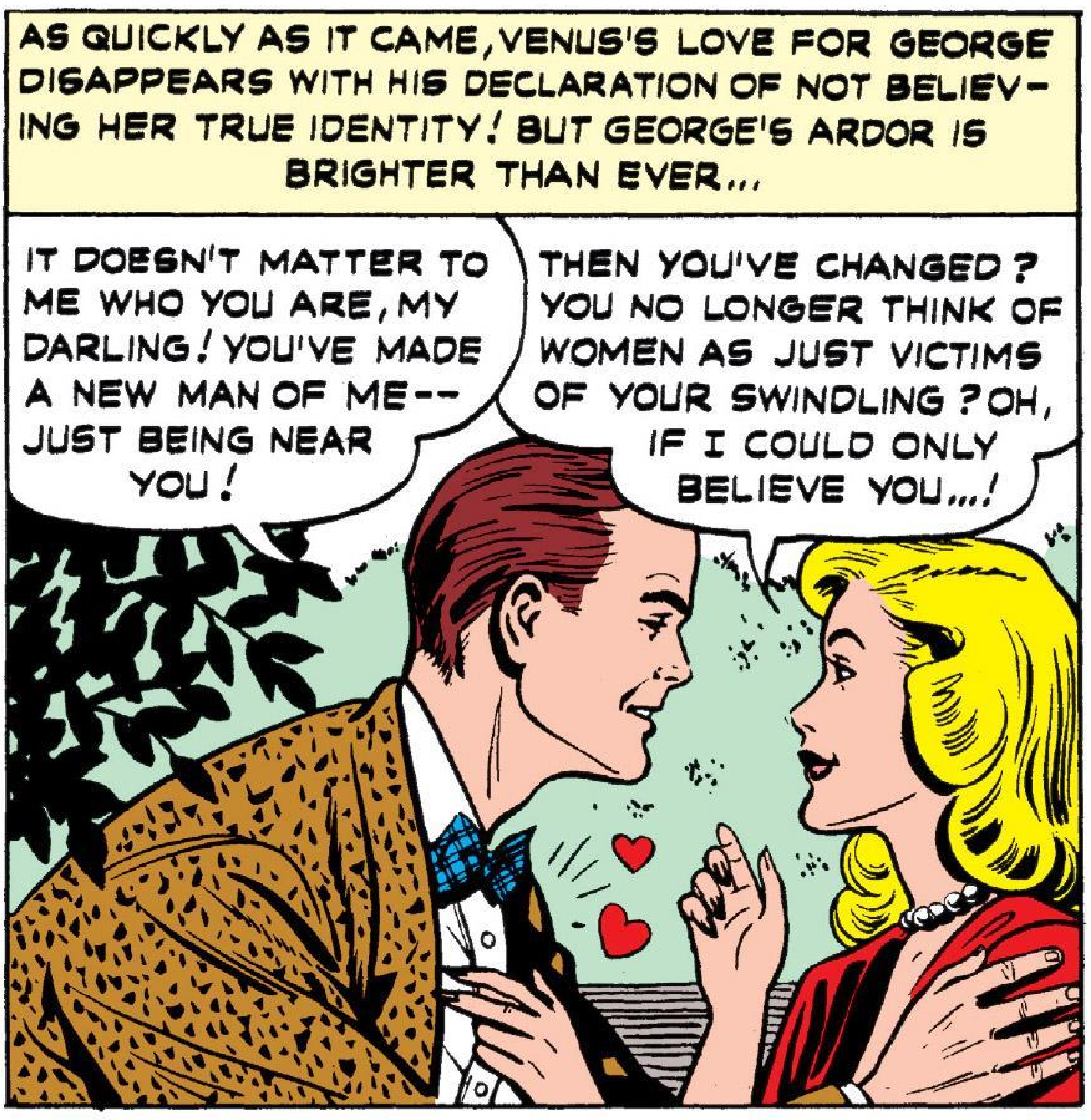
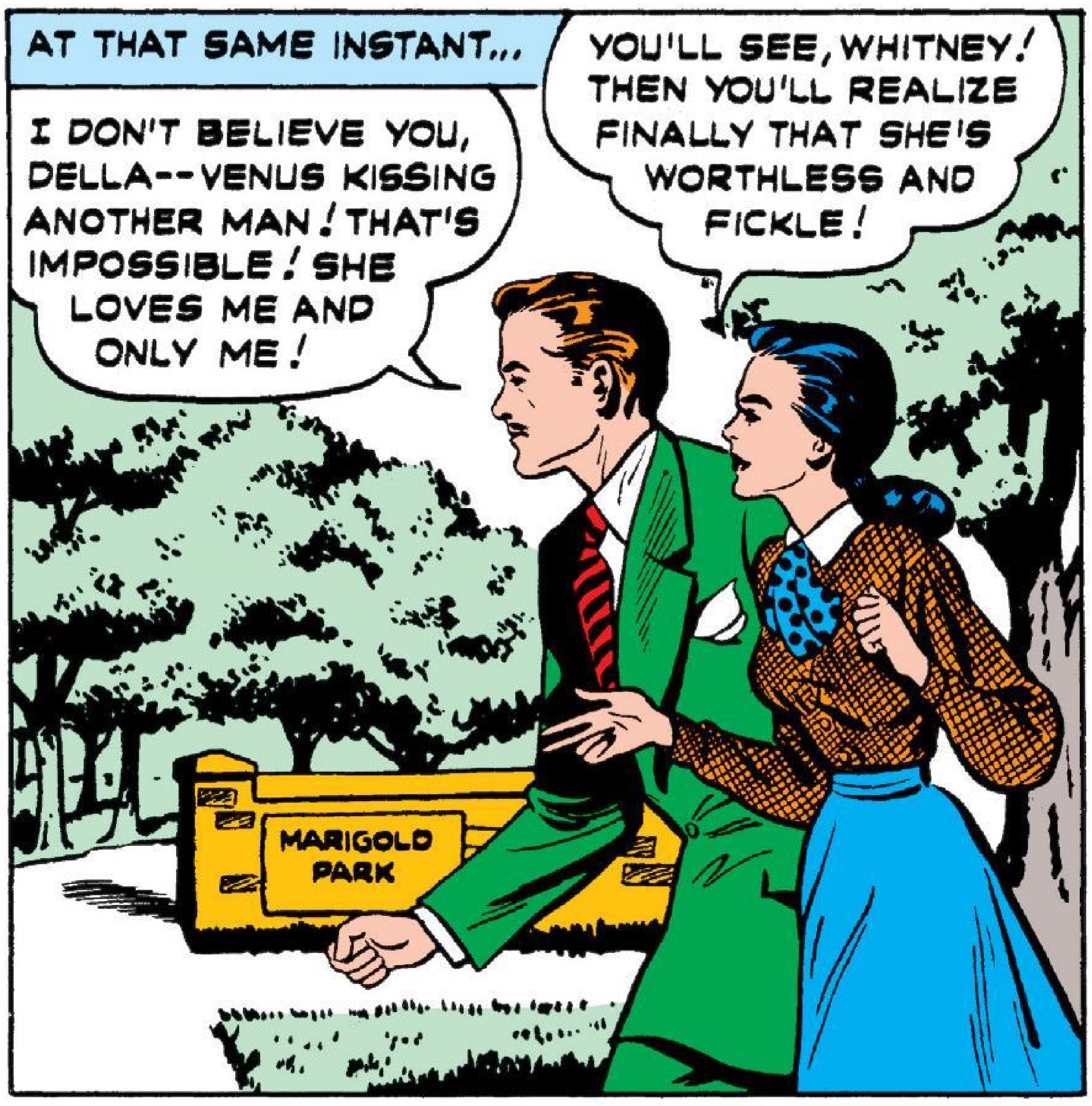
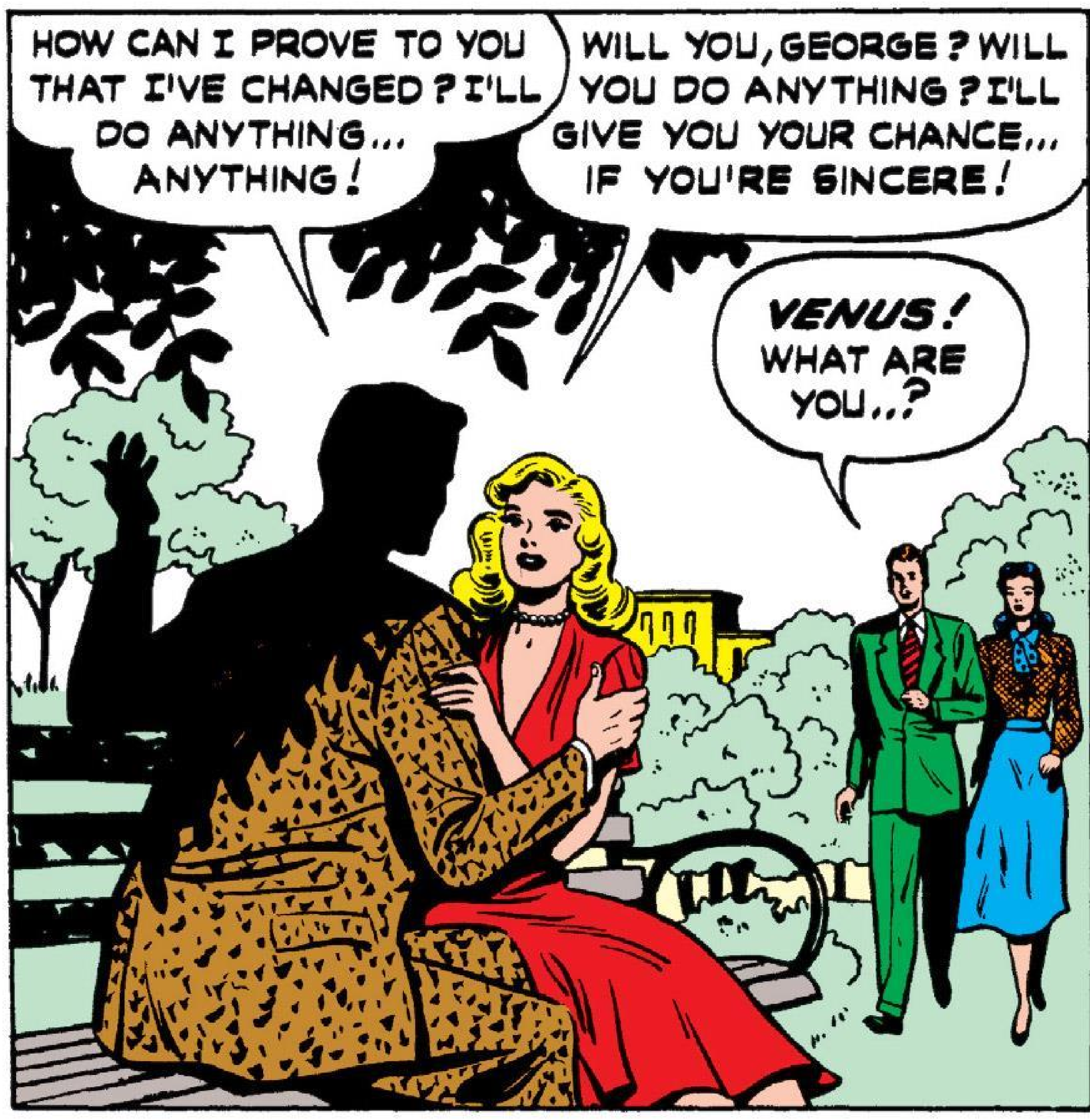
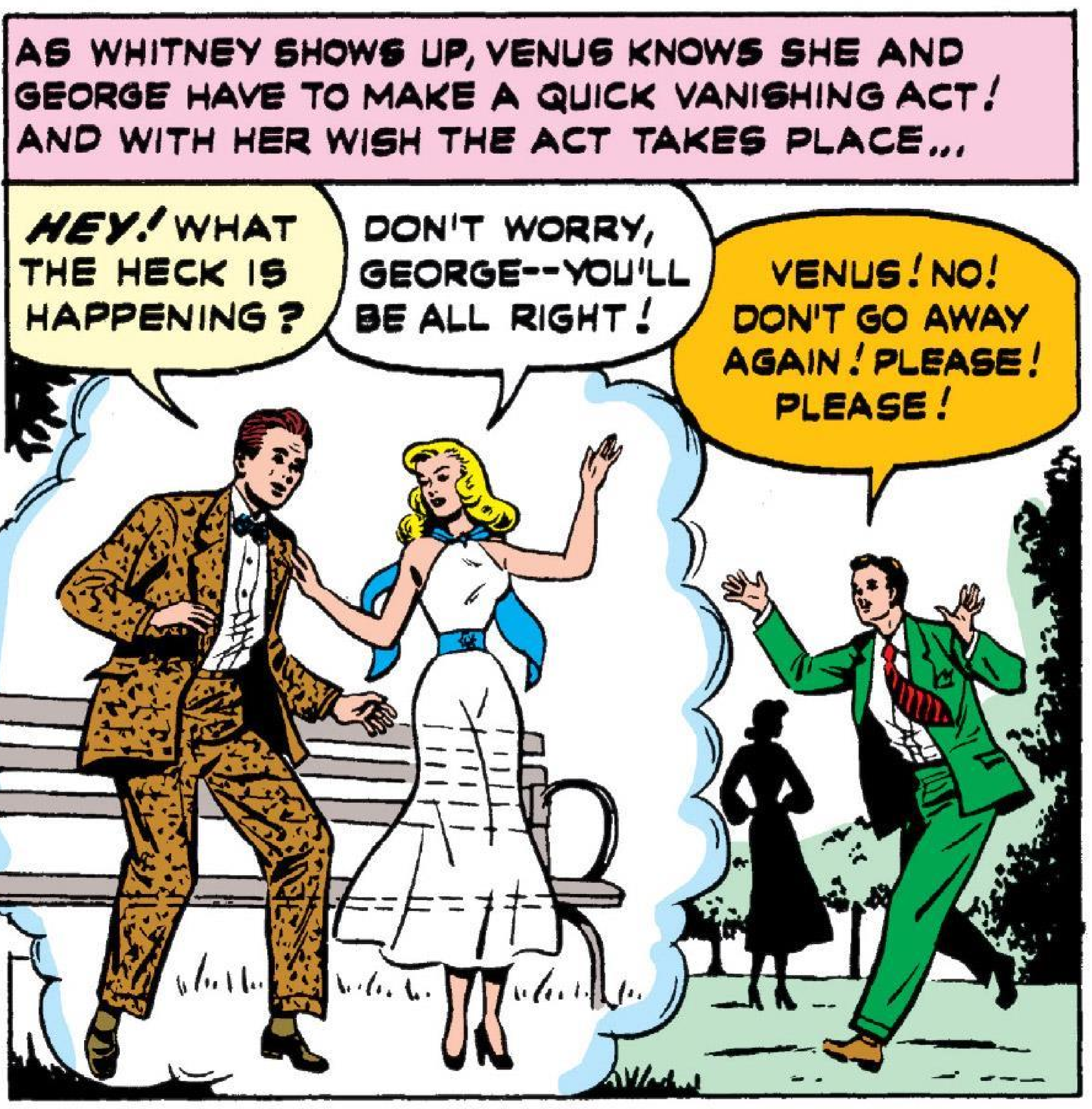
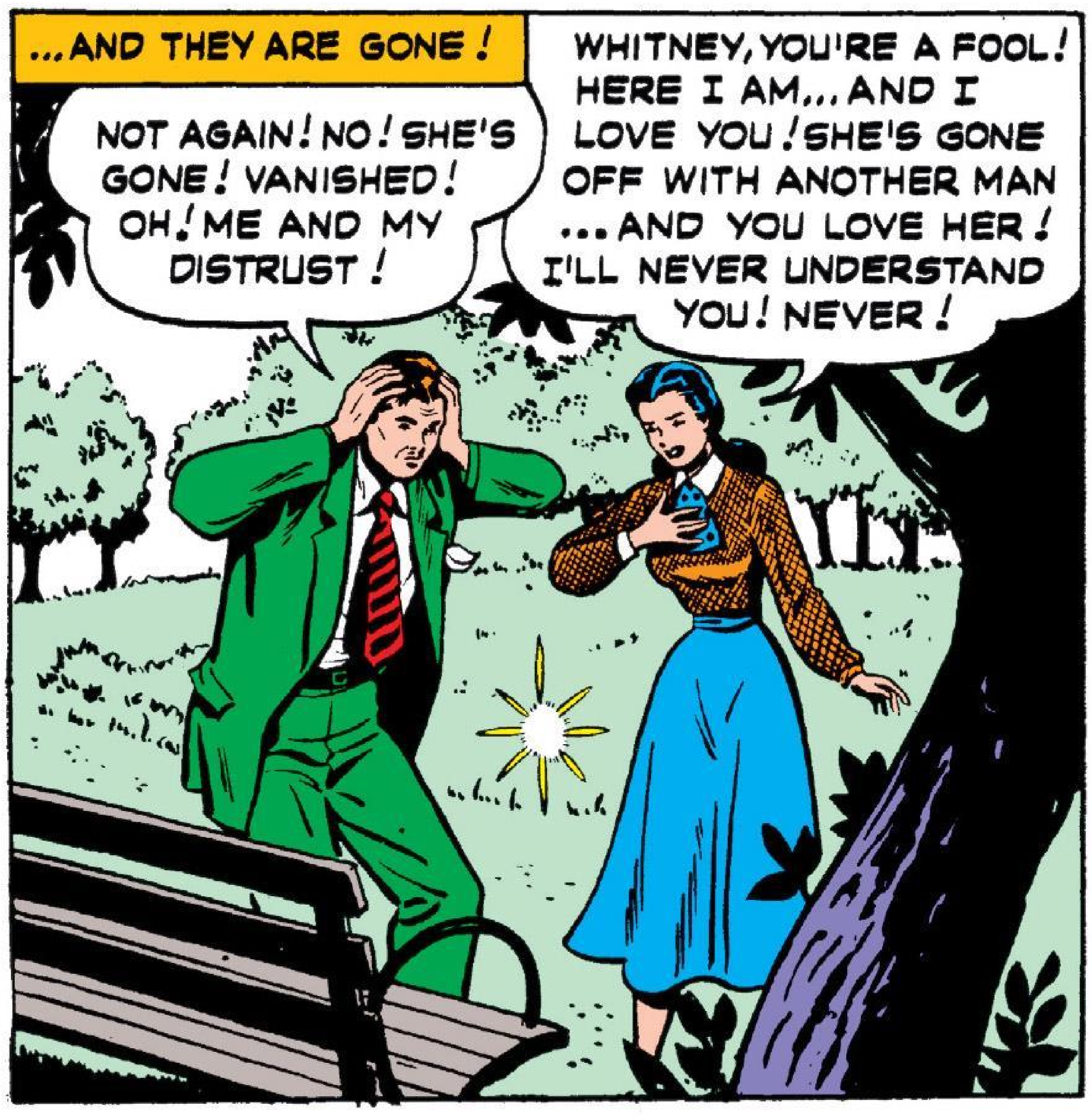
AGLOW WITH THIS STRANGE, OVERWHELMING AND SUDDEN ATTRACTION TO GEORGE HUSTON, VENUS BASKS IN THE WARMTH OF HIS LOVE...
VENUS, MY DARLING, TO PROVE TO YOU THAT MY LOVE IS SINCERE, I'VE A CONFESSION TO MAKE!
YOU DON'T NEED TO, GEORGE! YOU SEE, I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU!
WHAT? YOU... YOU KNOW EVERYTHING?
YES... EVERYTHING! YOU'RE A LOVE-THIEF, GEORGE, A RACKETEER IN ROMANCE--YOU MAKE YOUR CONTACTS THROUGH ADS IN LONELY HEARTS MAGAZINES! WHEN YOUR VICTIMS FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU, YOU FLEECE THEM OF THEIR SAVINGS... AND LEAVE THEM!
FOR THE LOVE OF PETE! THAT'S TRUE, EVERY WORD OF IT! BUT NOW THAT I'VE MET YOU, I'M THROUGH WITH ALL OF THAT! NOW, AT LAST, I KNOW WHAT IT IS TO LOVE SOMEONE! BUT TELL ME--HOW DID YOU KNOW ALL THIS?
I'M A GODDESS, REMEMBER... AND A GODDESS KNOWS ALL THINGS!
A GODDESS? NOW LOOK HERE, HONEY--I SAID YOU WERE A GODDESS, BUT I DIDN'T ACTUALLY MEAN A REAL ONE! DON'T LET MY KIDDING GO TO YOUR HEAD!
KIDDING? GEORGE... THEN... YOU DIDN'T REALLY MEAN IT... YOU, TOO, DON'T BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL YOU WHO I REALLY AM!

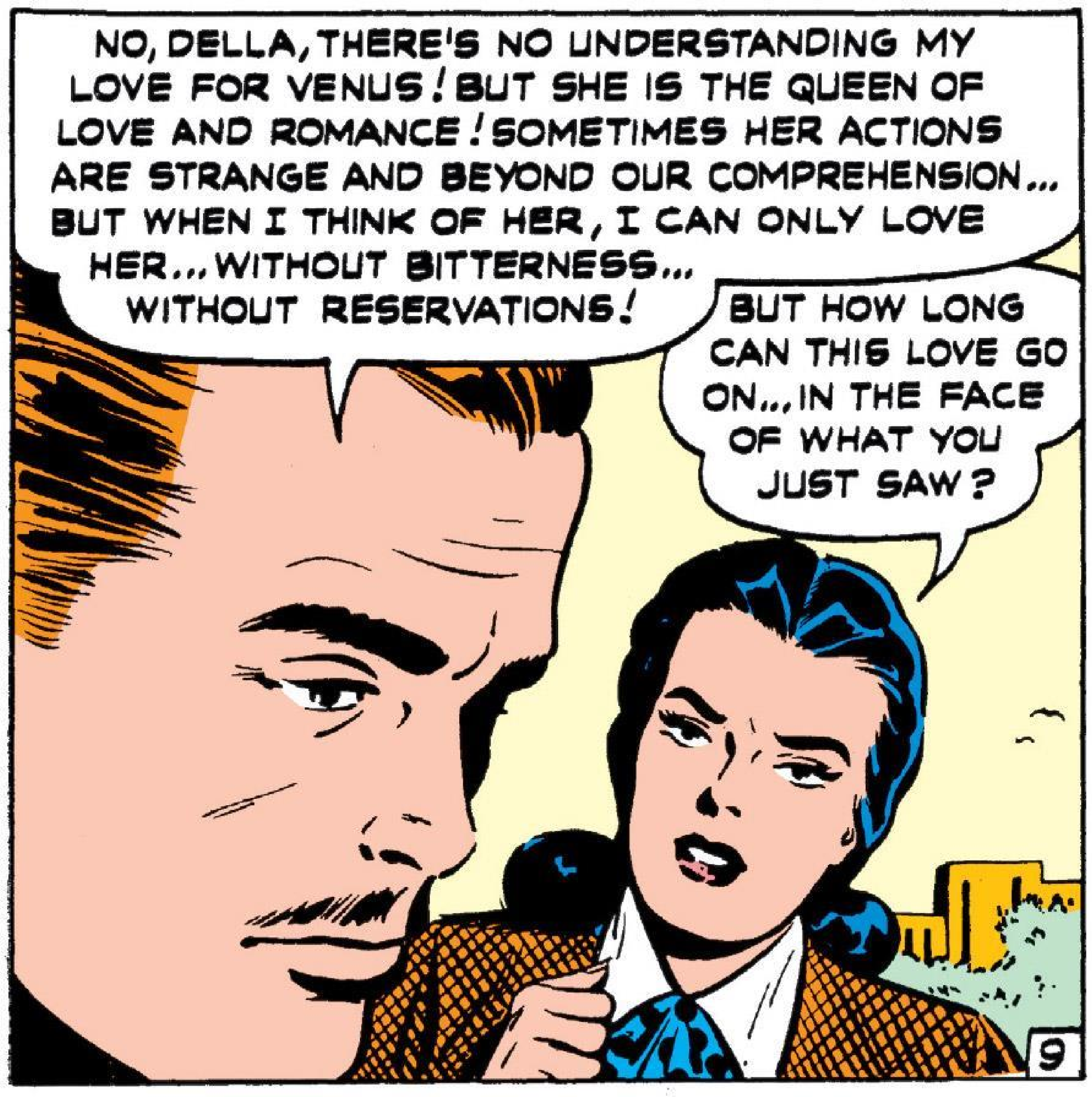

AS QUICKLY AS IT CAME, VENUS'S LOVE FOR GEORGE DISAPPEARS WITH HIS DECLARATION OF NOT BELIEVING HER TRUE IDENTITY! BUT GEORGE'S ARDOR IS BRIGHTER THAN EVER...
IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME WHO YOU ARE, MY DARLING! YOU'VE MADE A NEW MAN OF ME-- JUST BEING NEAR YOU!
THEN YOU'VE CHANGED? YOU NO LONGER THINK OF WOMEN AS JUST VICTIMS OF YOUR SWINDLING? OH, IF I COULD ONLY BELIEVE YOU...!

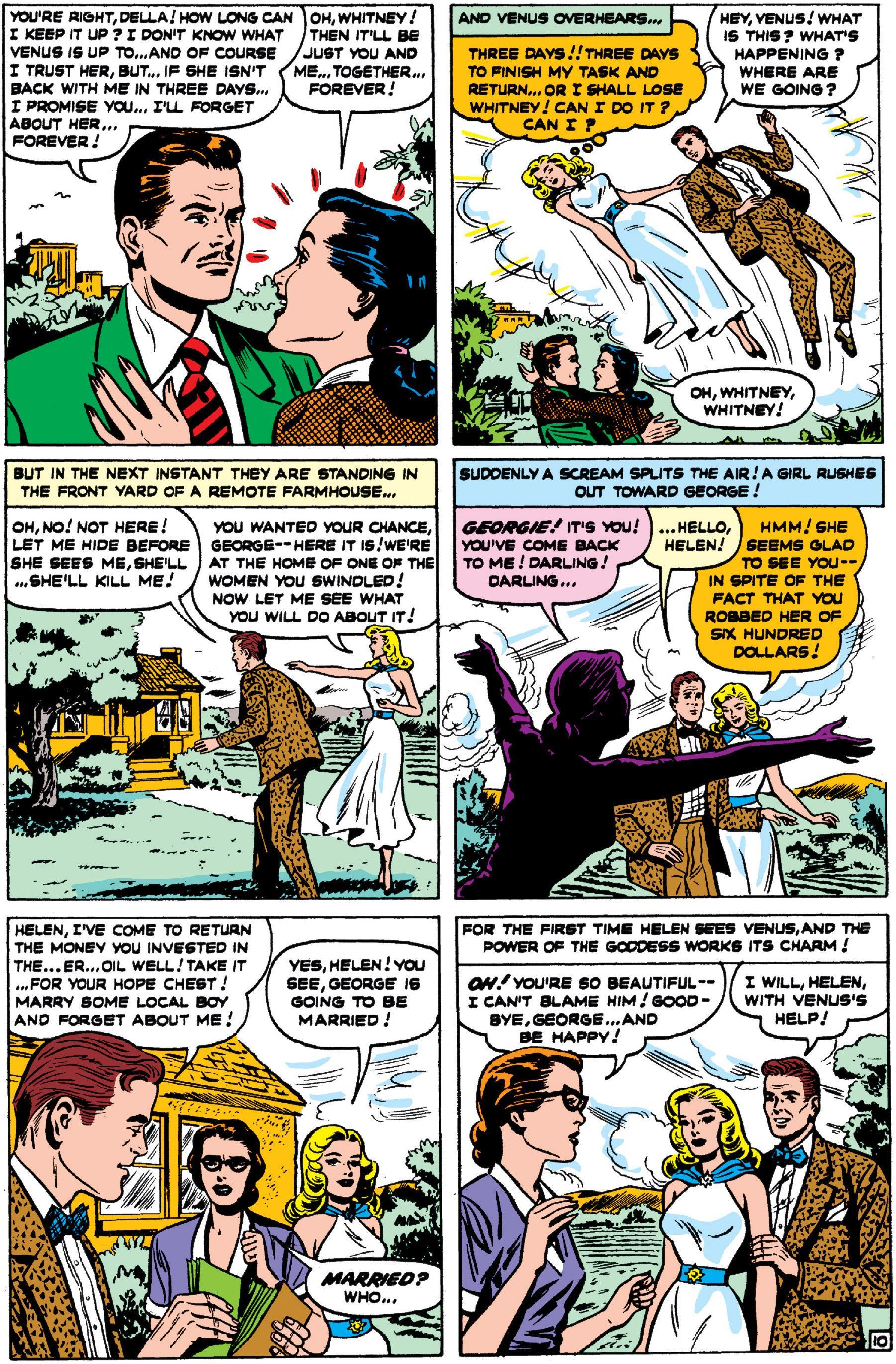

AT THAT SAME INSTANT...
YOU'LL SEE, WHITNEY! THEN YOU'LL REALIZE FINALLY THAT SHE'S WORTHLESS AND FICKLE!
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU, DELLA--VENUS KISSING ANOTHER MAN! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! SHE LOVES ME AND ONLY ME!
MARIGOLD PARK

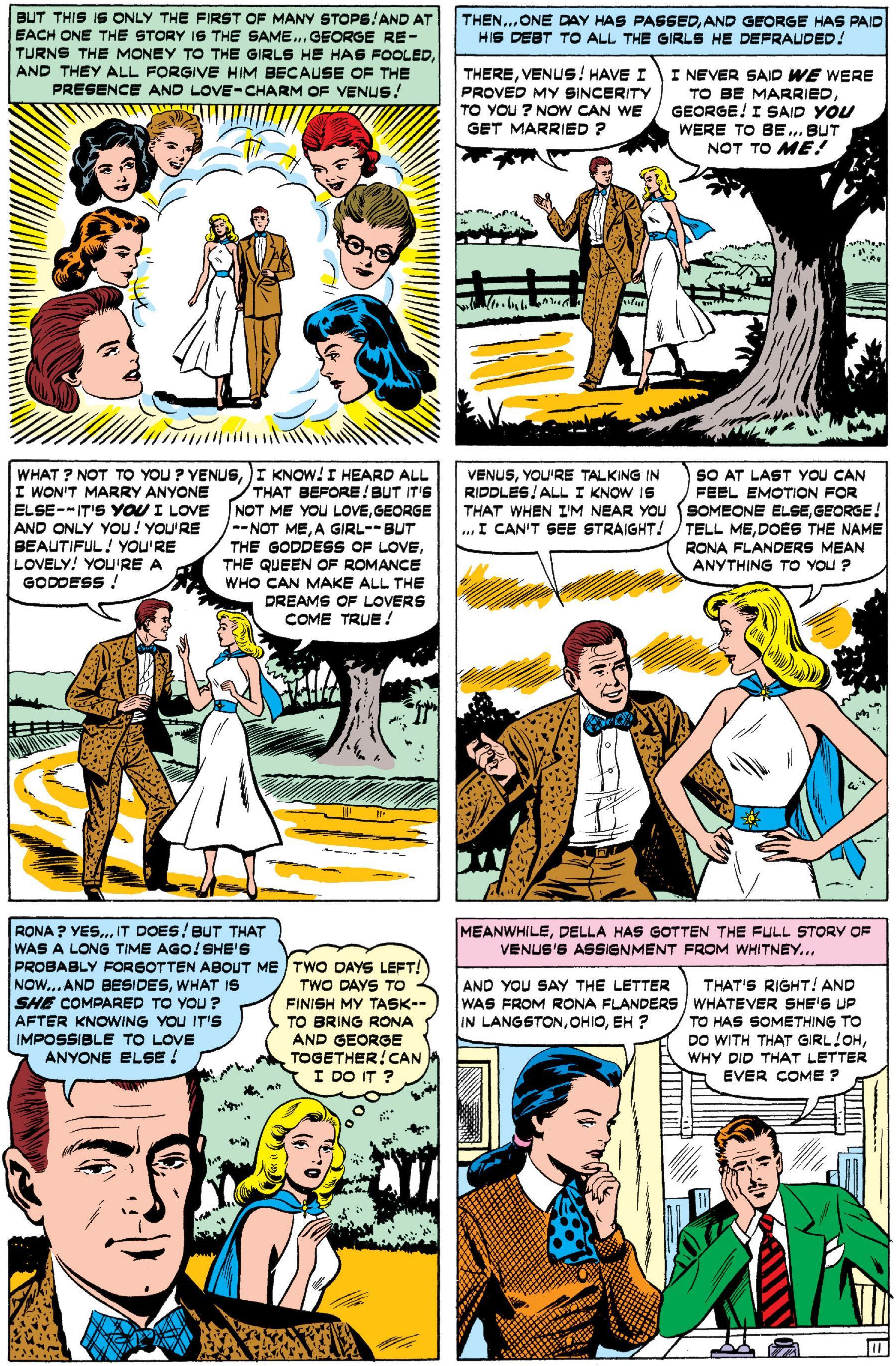

HOW CAN I PROVE TO YOU THAT I'VE CHANGED? I'LL DO ANYTHING... ANYTHING!
WILL YOU, GEORGE? WILL YOU DO ANYTHING? I'LL GIVE YOU YOUR CHANCE... IF YOU'RE SINCERE!
VENUS! WHAT ARE YOU...?

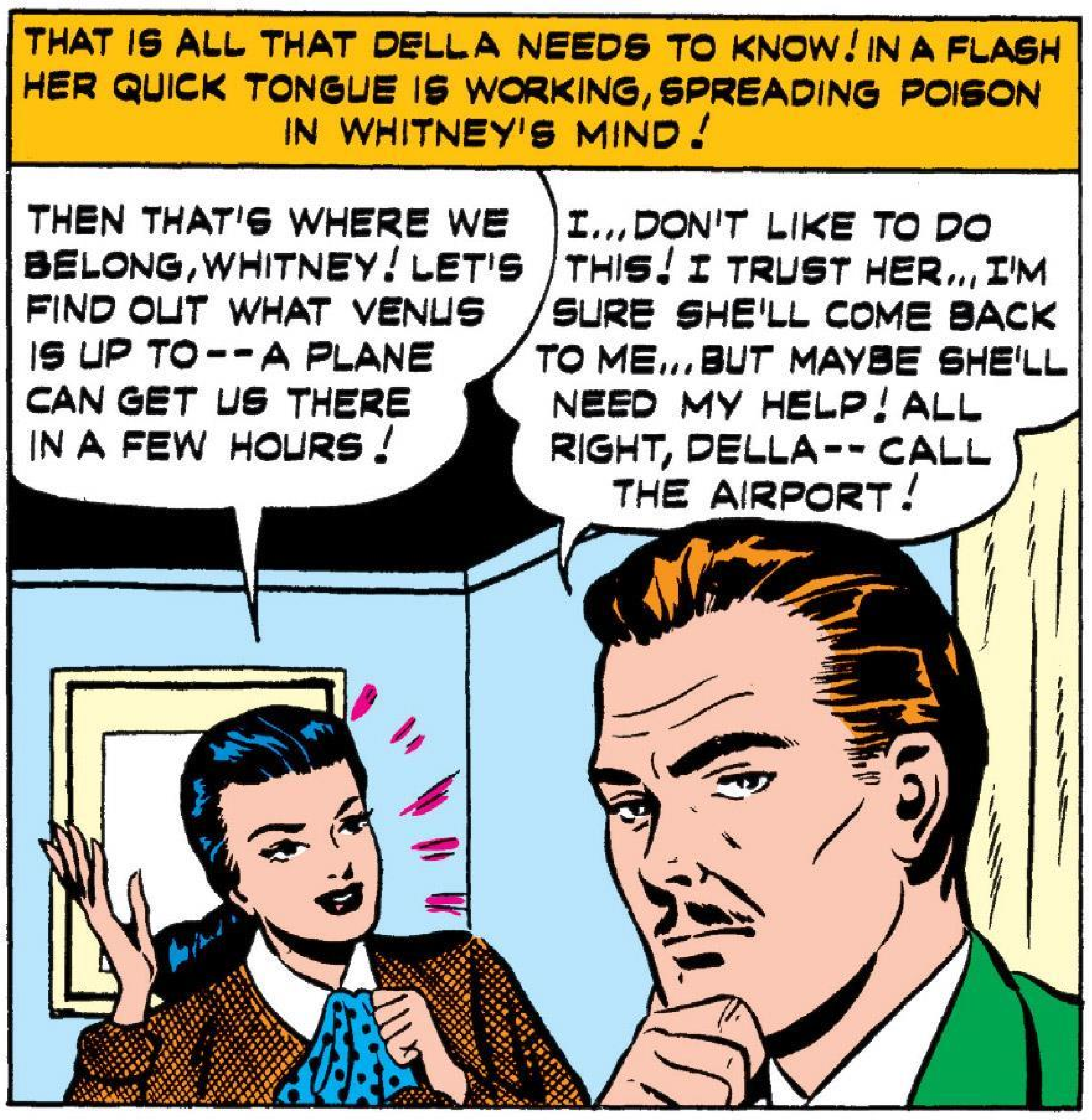

AS WHITNEY SHOWS UP, VENUS KNOWS SHE AND GEORGE HAVE TO MAKE A QUICK VANISHING ACT! AND WITH HER WISH THE ACT TAKES PLACE...
HEY! WHAT THE HECK IS HAPPENING?
DON'T WORRY, GEORGE--YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
VENUS! NO! DON'T GO AWAY AGAIN! PLEASE! PLEASE!

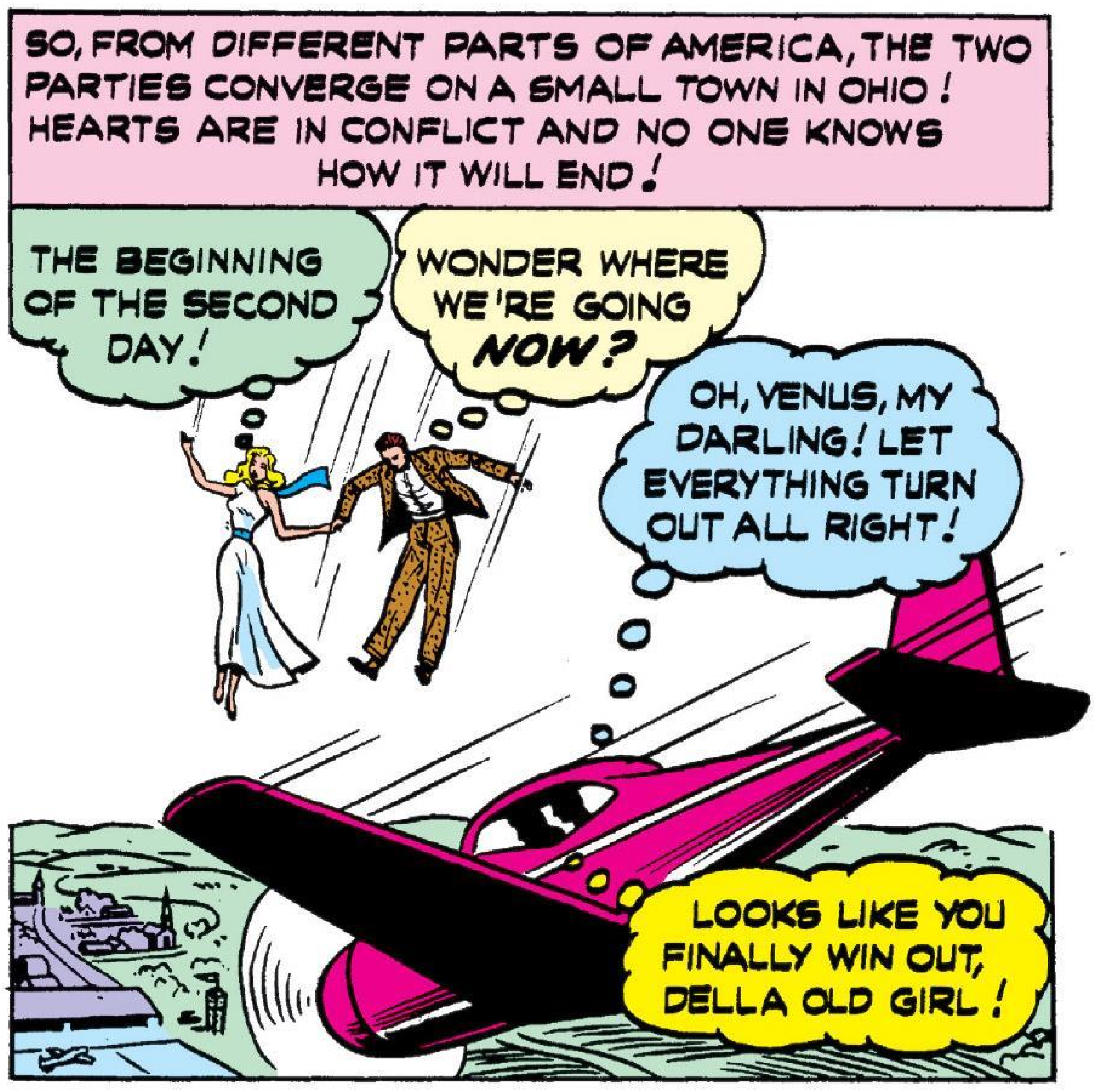

...AND THEY ARE GONE!
NOT AGAIN! NO! SHE'S GONE! VANISHED! OH! ME AND MY DISTRUST!
WHITNEY, YOU'RE A FOOL! HERE I AM... AND I LOVE YOU! SHE'S GONE OFF WITH ANOTHER MAN ...AND YOU LOVE HER! I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND YOU! NEVER!

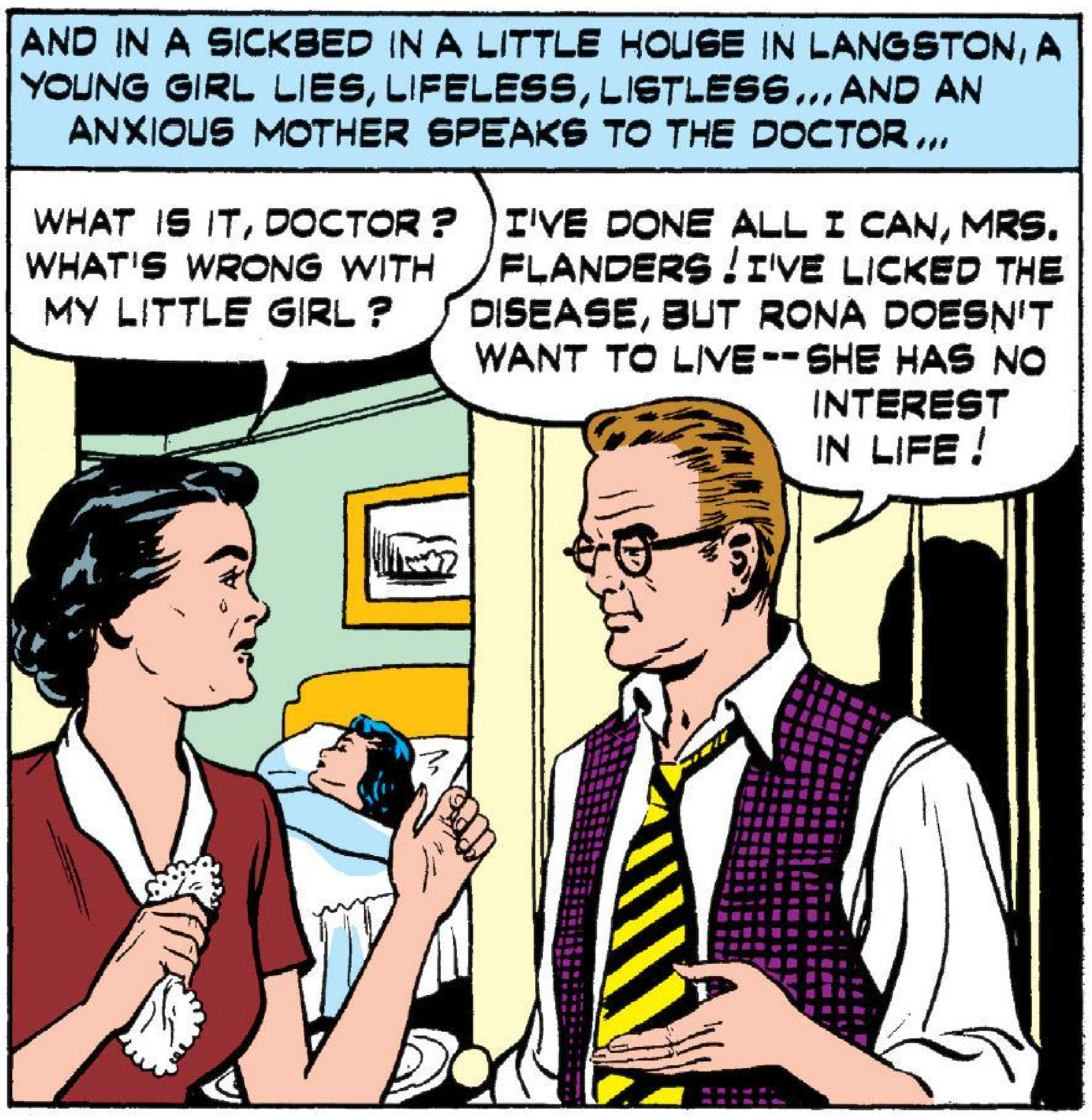

NO, DELLA, THERE'S NO UNDERSTANDING MY LOVE FOR VENUS! BUT SHE IS THE QUEEN OF LOVE AND ROMANCE! SOMETIMES HER ACTIONS ARE STRANGE AND BEYOND OUR COMPREHENSION... BUT WHEN I THINK OF HER, I CAN ONLY LOVE HER... WITHOUT BITTERNESS... WITHOUT RESERVATIONS!
BUT HOW LONG CAN THIS LOVE GO ON... IN THE FACE OF WHAT YOU JUST SAW?

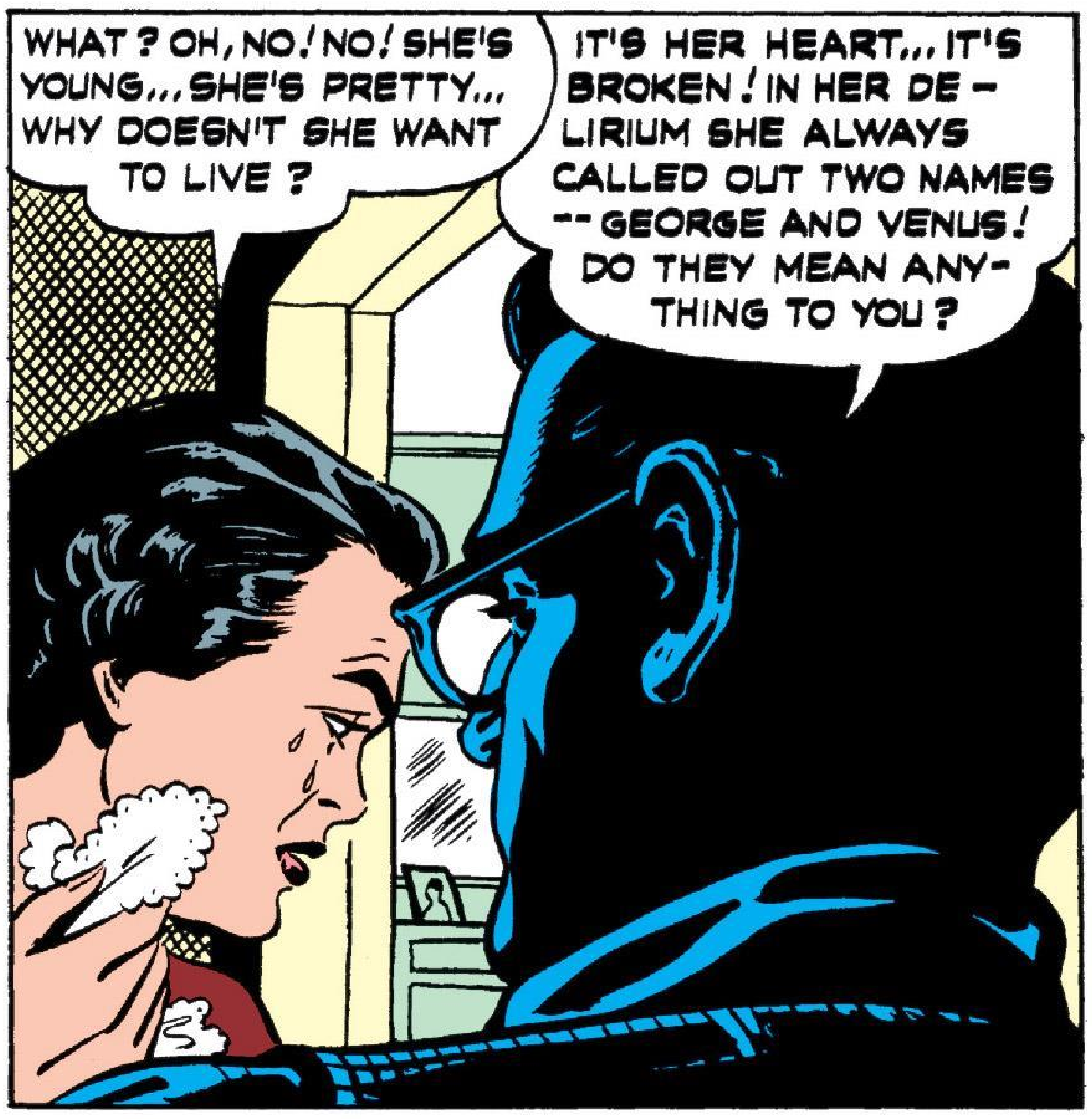

YOU'RE RIGHT, DELLA! HOW LONG CAN I KEEP IT UP? I DON'T KNOW WHAT VENUS IS UP TO,,,AND OF COURSE I TRUST HER, BUT... IF SHE ISN'T BACK WITH ME IN THREE DAYS... I PROMISE YOU... I'LL FORGET ABOUT HER... FOREVER!
OH, WHITNEY! THEN IT'LL BE JUST YOU AND ME... TOGETHER... FOREVER!
AND VENUS OVERHEARS...
THREE DAYS!! THREE DAYS TO FINISH MY TASK AND RETURN... OR I SHALL LOSE WHITNEY! CAN I DO IT? CAN I?
HEY, VENUS! WHAT IS THIS? WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHERE ARE WE GOING?
OH, WHITNEY, WHITNEY!
BUT IN THE NEXT INSTANT THEY ARE STANDING IN THE FRONT YARD OF A REMOTE FARMHOUSE...
OH, NO! NOT HERE! LET ME HIDE BEFORE SHE SEES ME, SHE'LL ...SHE'LL KILL ME!
YOU WANTED YOUR CHANCE, GEORGE--HERE IT IS! WE'RE AT THE HOME OF ONE OF THE WOMEN YOU SWINDLED! NOW LET ME SEE WHAT YOU WILL DO ABOUT IT!
SUDDENLY A SCREAM SPLITS THE AIR! A GIRL RUSHES OUT TOWARD GEORGE!
GEORGIE! IT'S YOU! YOU'VE COME BACK TO ME! DARLING! DARLING...
...HELLO, HELEN!
HMM! SHE SEEMS GLAD TO SEE YOU--IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT YOU ROBBED HER OF SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS!
HELEN, I'VE COME TO RETURN THE MONEY YOU INVESTED IN THE... ER... OIL WELL! TAKE IT ...FOR YOUR HOPE CHEST! MARRY SOME LOCAL BOY AND FORGET ABOUT ME!
YES, HELEN! YOU SEE, GEORGE IS GOING TO BE MARRIED!
MARRIED? WHO...
FOR THE FIRST TIME HELEN SEES VENUS, AND THE POWER OF THE GODDESS WORKS ITS CHARM!
OH! YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL--I CAN'T BLAME HIM! GOOD-BYE, GEORGE... AND BE HAPPY!
I WILL, HELEN, WITH VENUS'S HELP!

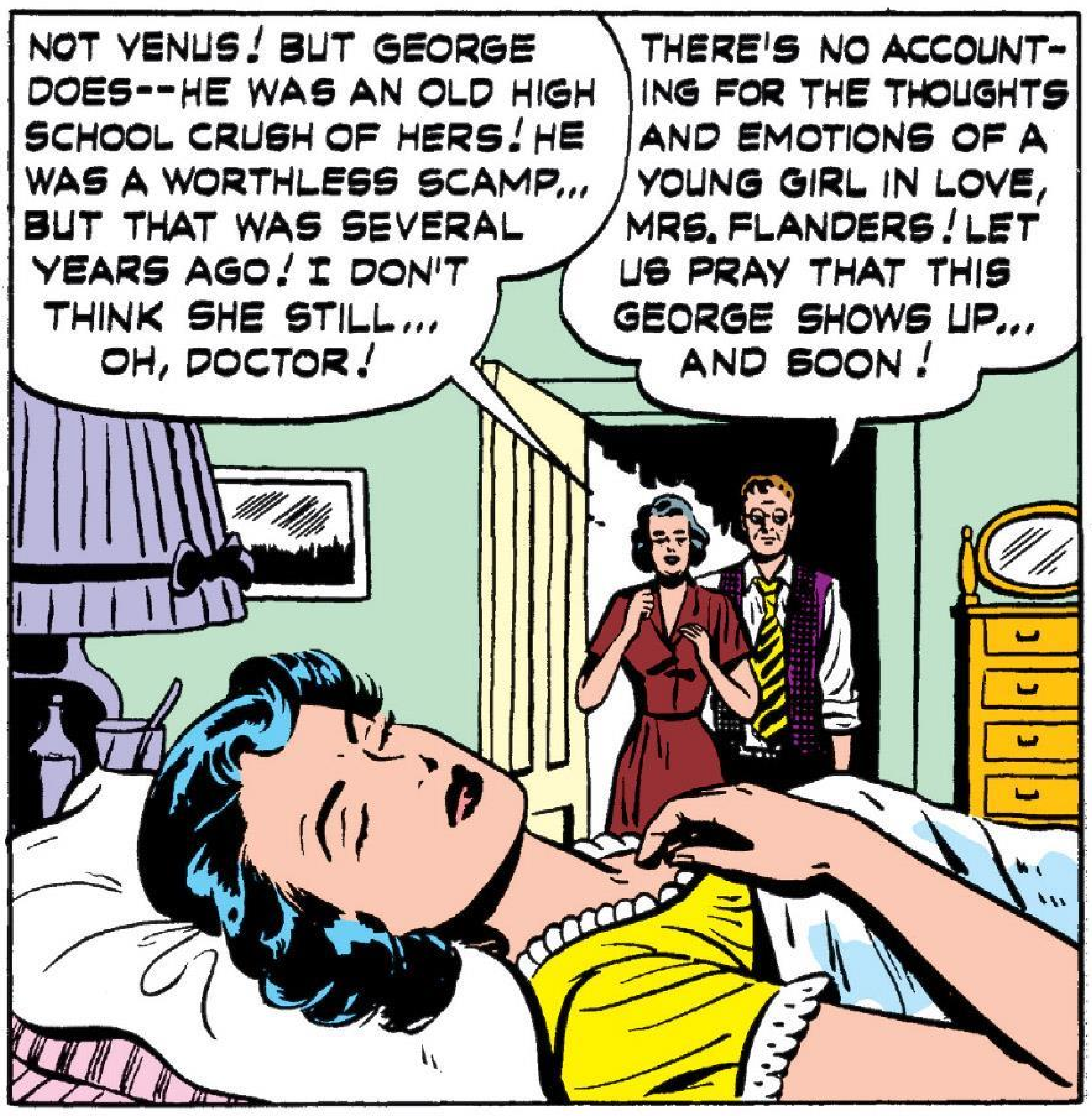

BUT THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST OF MANY STOPS! AND AT EACH ONE THE STORY IS THE SAME... GEORGE RETURNS THE MONEY TO THE GIRLS HE HAS FOOLED, AND THEY ALL FORGIVE HIM BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE AND LOVE-CHARM OF VENUS!
THEN... ONE DAY HAS PASSED, AND GEORGE HAS PAID HIS DEBT TO ALL THE GIRLS HE DEFRAUDED!
THERE, VENUS! HAVE I PROVED MY SINCERITY TO YOU? NOW CAN WE GET MARRIED?
I NEVER SAID **WE** WERE TO BE MARRIED, GEORGE! I SAID **YOU** WERE TO BE... BUT NOT TO **ME**!
WHAT? NOT TO YOU? VENUS, I WON'T MARRY ANYONE ELSE--IT'S **YOU** I LOVE AND ONLY YOU! YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL! YOU'RE LOVELY! YOU'RE A GODDESS!
I KNOW! I HEARD ALL THAT BEFORE! BUT IT'S NOT ME YOU LOVE, GEORGE --NOT ME, A GIRL--BUT THE GODDESS OF LOVE, THE QUEEN OF ROMANCE WHO CAN MAKE ALL THE DREAMS OF LOVERS COME TRUE!
VENUS, YOU'RE TALKING IN RIDDLES! ALL I KNOW IS THAT WHEN I'M NEAR YOU ... I CAN'T SEE STRAIGHT!
SO AT LAST YOU CAN FEEL EMOTION FOR SOMEONE ELSE, GEORGE! TELL ME, DOES THE NAME RONA FLANDERS MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?
RONA? YES... IT DOES! BUT THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO! SHE'S PROBABLY FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME NOW... AND BESIDES, WHAT IS **SHE** COMPARED TO YOU? AFTER KNOWING YOU IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO LOVE ANYONE ELSE!
TWO DAYS LEFT! TWO DAYS TO FINISH MY TASK--TO BRING RONA AND GEORGE TOGETHER! CAN I DO IT?
MEANWHILE, DELLA HAS GOTTEN THE FULL STORY OF VENUS'S ASSIGNMENT FROM WHITNEY...
AND YOU SAY THE LETTER WAS FROM RONA FLANDERS IN LANGSTON, OHIO, EH?
THAT'S RIGHT! AND WHATEVER SHE'S UP TO HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT GIRL! OH, WHY DID THAT LETTER EVER COME?

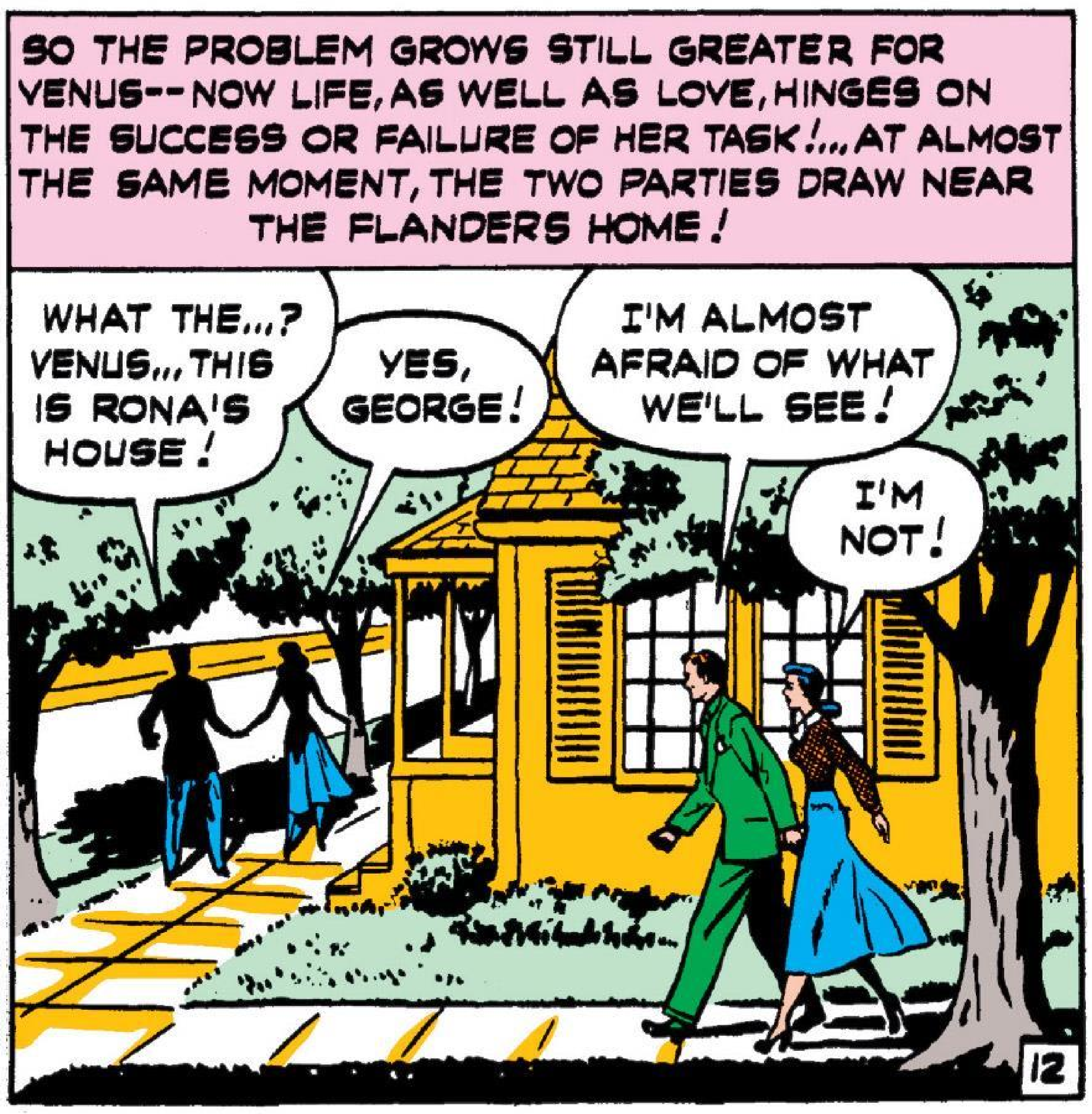

THAT IS ALL THAT DELLA NEEDS TO KNOW! IN A FLASH HER QUICK TONGUE IS WORKING, SPREADING POISON IN WHITNEY'S MIND!
THEN THAT'S WHERE WE BELONG, WHITNEY! LET'S FIND OUT WHAT VENUS IS UP TO-- A PLANE CAN GET US THERE IN A FEW HOURS!
I... DON'T LIKE TO DO THIS! I TRUST HER... I'M SURE SHE'LL COME BACK TO ME... BUT MAYBE SHE'LL NEED MY HELP! ALL RIGHT, DELLA-- CALL THE AIRPORT!


SO, FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF AMERICA, THE TWO PARTIES CONVERGE ON A SMALL TOWN IN OHIO! HEARTS ARE IN CONFLICT AND NO ONE KNOWS HOW IT WILL END!
THE BEGINNING OF THE SECOND DAY!
WONDER WHERE WE'RE GOING NOW?
OH, VENUS, MY DARLING! LET EVERYTHING TURN OUT ALL RIGHT!
LOOKS LIKE YOU FINALLY WIN OUT, DELLA OLD GIRL!


AND IN A SICKBED IN A LITTLE HOUSE IN LANGSTON, A YOUNG GIRL LIES, LIFELESS, LIGTLESS... AND AN ANXIOUS MOTHER SPEAKS TO THE DOCTOR...
WHAT IS IT, DOCTOR? WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY LITTLE GIRL?
I'VE DONE ALL I CAN, MRS. FLANDERS! I'VE LICKED THE DISEASE, BUT RONA DOESN'T WANT TO LIVE-- SHE HAS NO INTEREST IN LIFE!


WHAT? OH, NO! NO! SHE'S YOUNG... SHE'S PRETTY... WHY DOESN'T SHE WANT TO LIVE?
IT'S HER HEART... IT'S BROKEN! IN HER DELIRIUM SHE ALWAYS CALLED OUT TWO NAMES -- GEORGE AND VENUS! DO THEY MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?


NOT VENUS! BUT GEORGE DOES-- HE WAS AN OLD HIGH SCHOOL CRUSH OF HERS! HE WAS A WORTHLESS SCAMP... BUT THAT WAS SEVERAL YEARS AGO! I DON'T THINK SHE STILL... OH, DOCTOR!
THERE'S NO ACCOUNTING FOR THE THOUGHTS AND EMOTIONS OF A YOUNG GIRL IN LOVE, MRS. FLANDERS! LET US PRAY THAT THIS GEORGE SHOWS UP... AND SOON!


SO THE PROBLEM GROWS STILL GREATER FOR VENUS-- NOW LIFE, AS WELL AS LOVE, HINGES ON THE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF HER TASK!... AT ALMOST THE SAME MOMENT, THE TWO PARTIES DRAW NEAR THE FLANDERS HOME!
WHAT THE...? VENUS... THIS IS RONA'S HOUSE!
YES, GEORGE!
I'M ALMOST AFRAID OF WHAT WE'LL SEE!
I'M NOT!

VENUS

CHAPTER 3

LOVE CONQUERS ALL!

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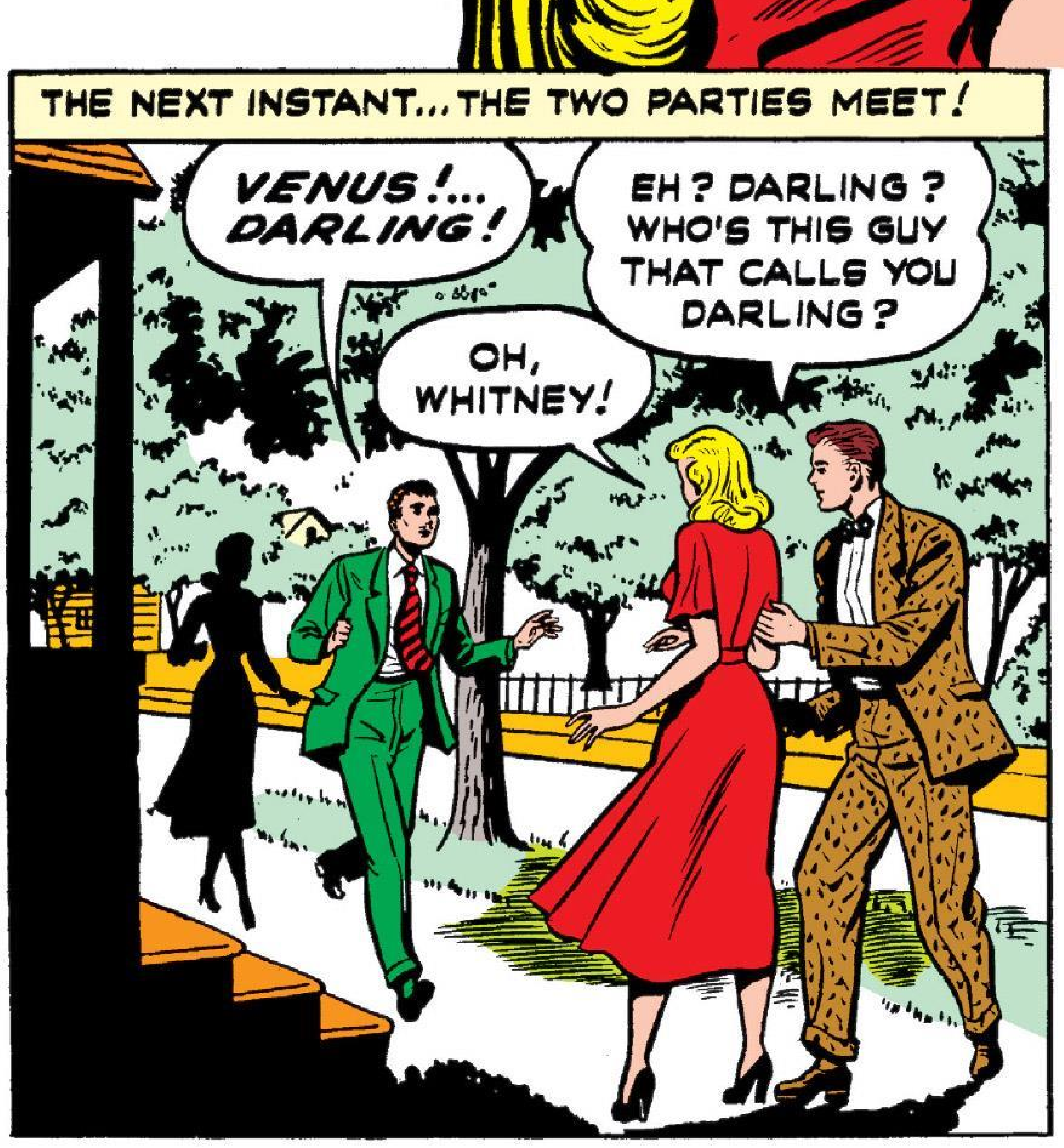
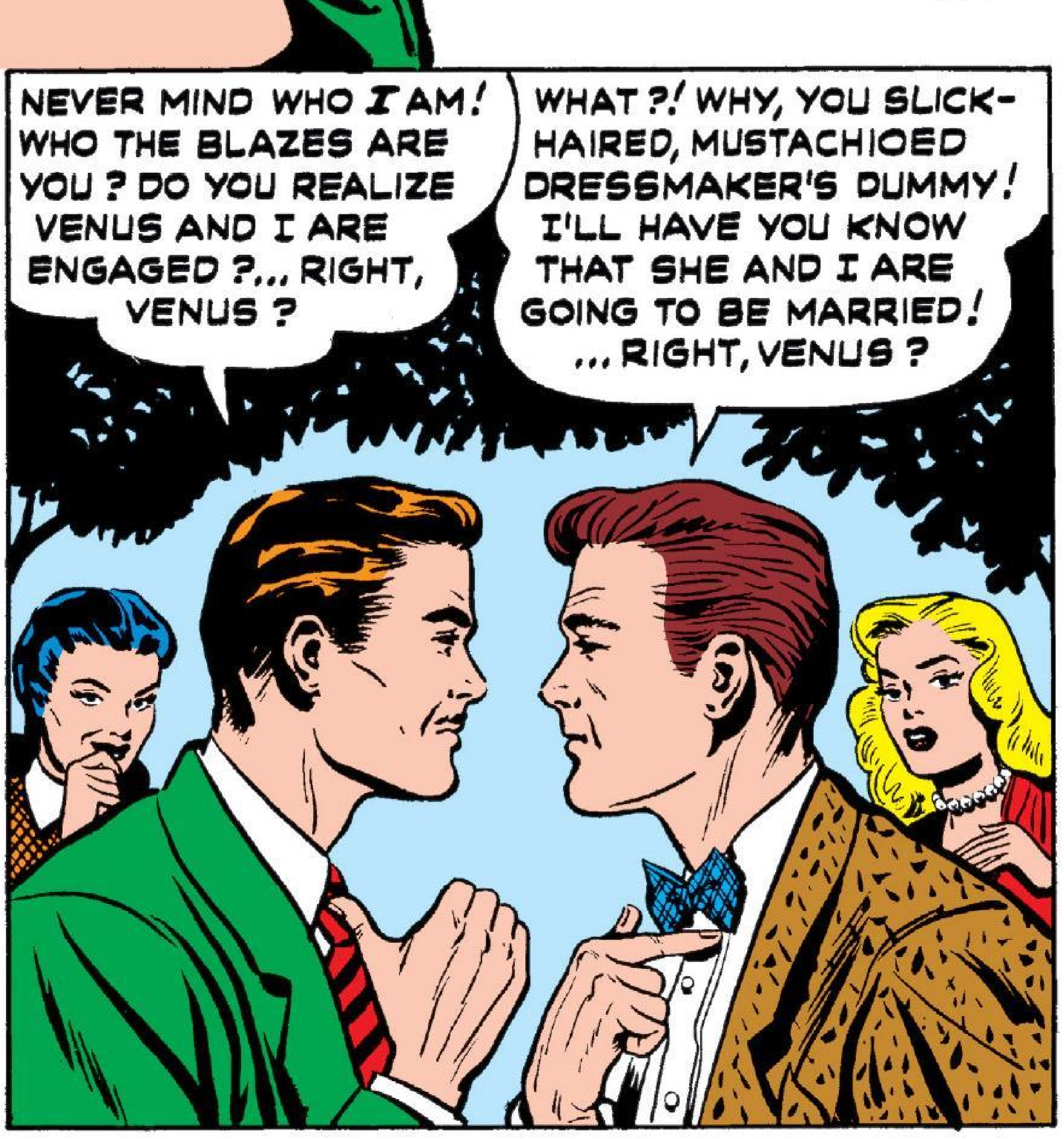
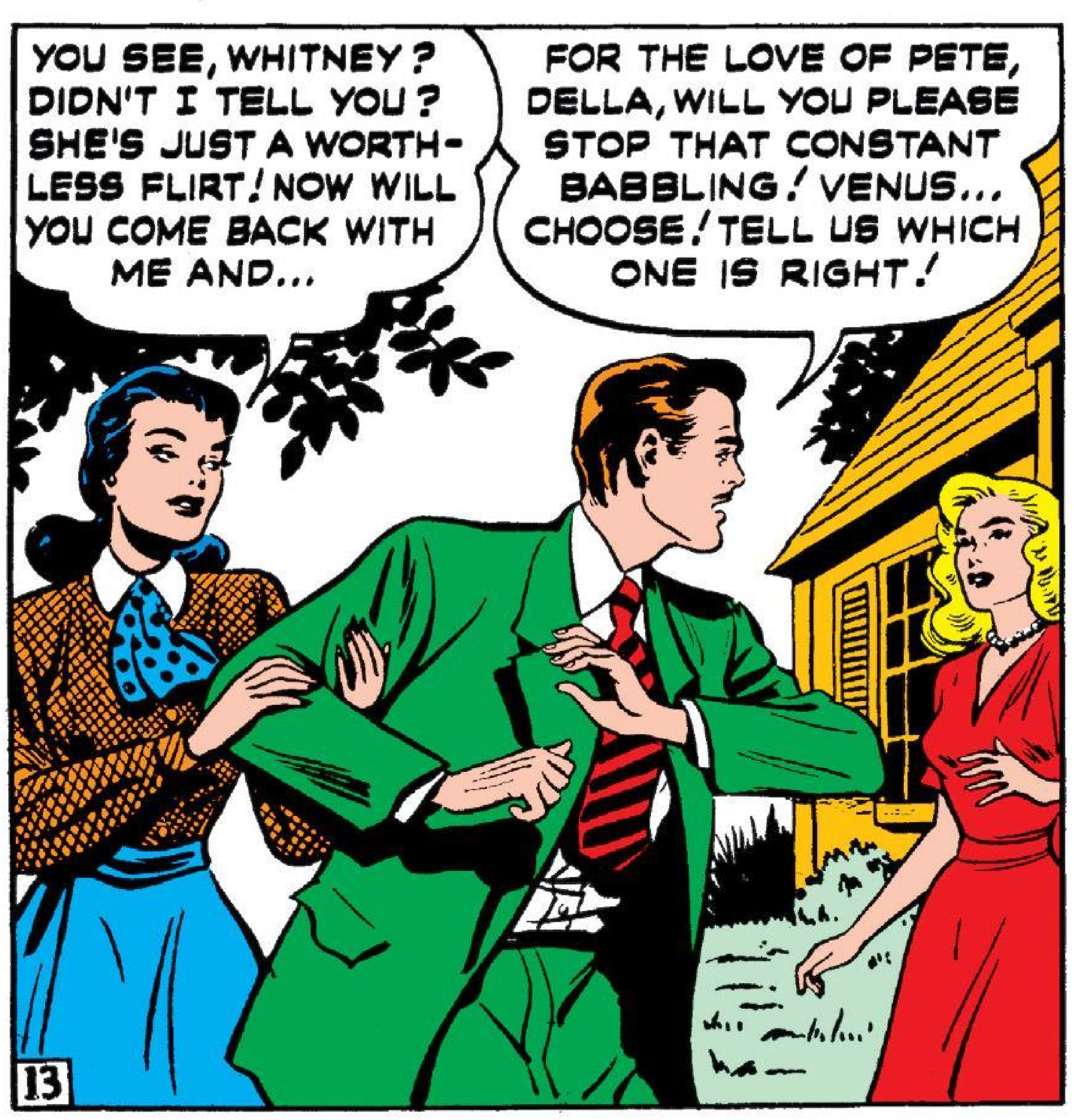
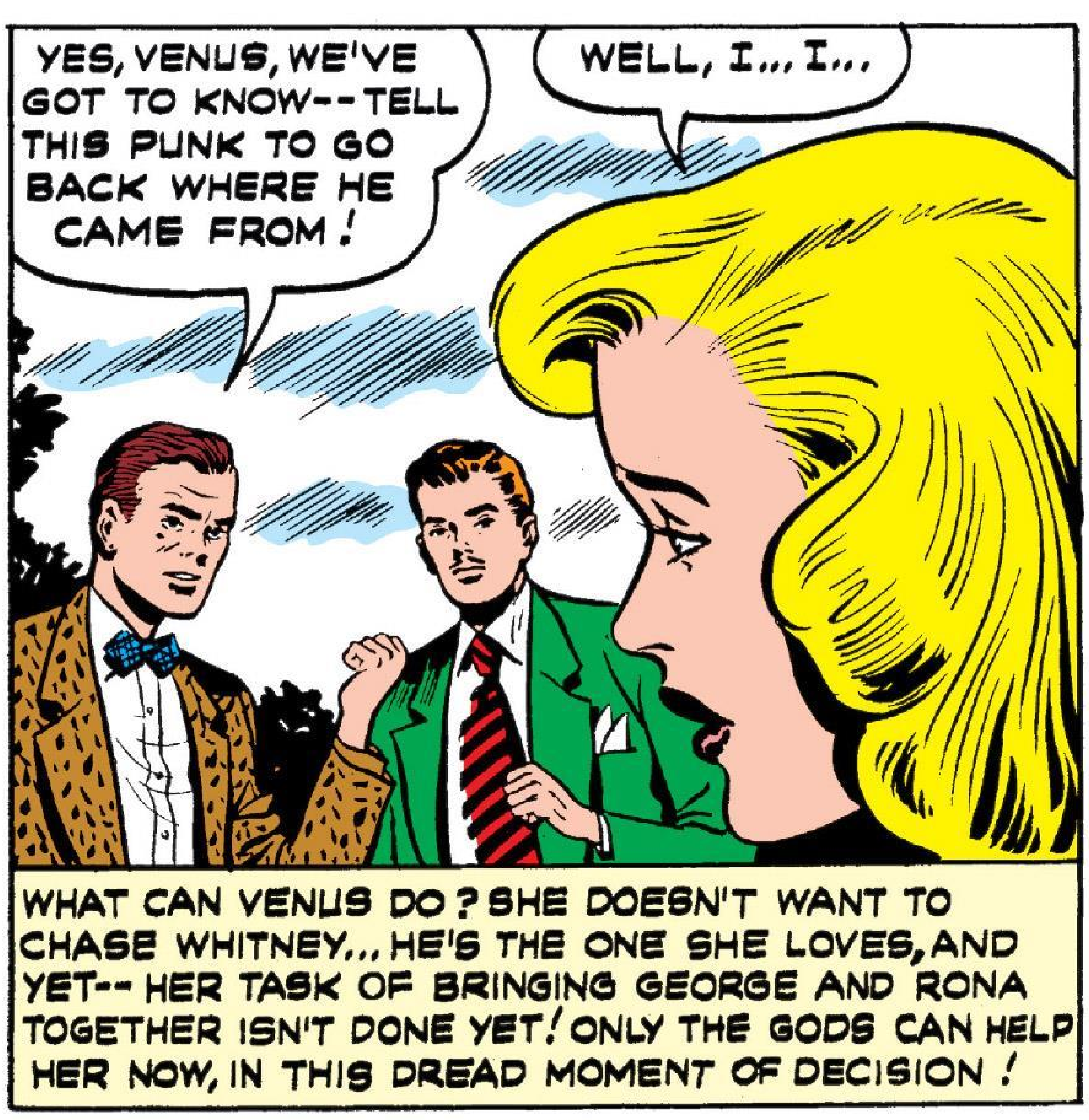
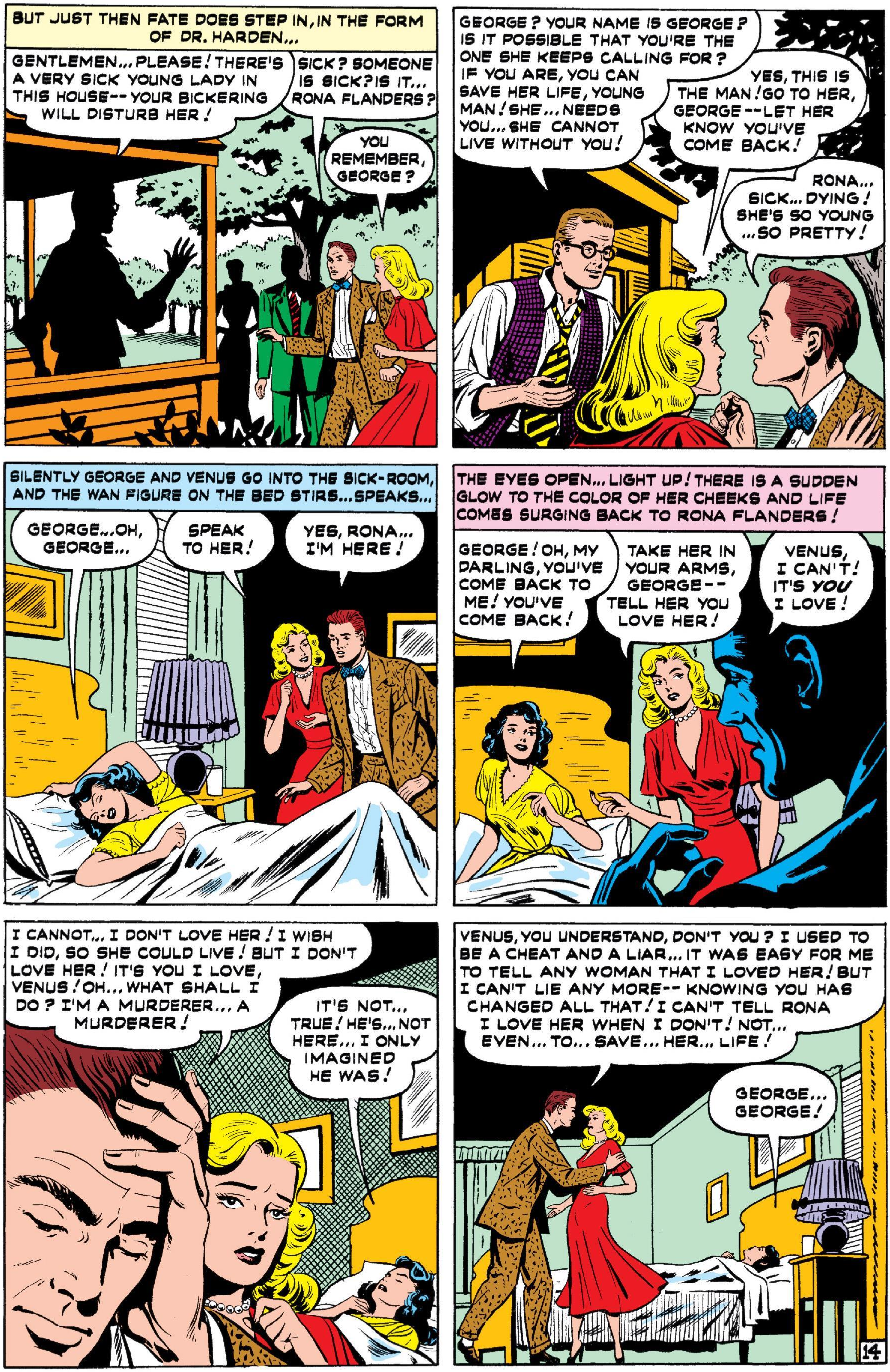

THE NEXT INSTANT... THE TWO PARTIES MEET!
VENUS!... DARLING!
EH? DARLING? WHO'S THIS GUY THAT CALLS YOU DARLING?
OH, WHITNEY!


NEVER MIND WHO I AM! WHO THE BLAZES ARE YOU? DO YOU REALIZE VENUS AND I ARE ENGAGED?... RIGHT, VENUS?
WHAT?! WHY, YOU SLICK-HAIRED, MUSTACHIOED DRESSMAKER'S DUMMY! I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT SHE AND I ARE GOING TO BE MARRIED! ... RIGHT, VENUS?


YOU SEE, WHITNEY? DIDN'T I TELL YOU? SHE'S JUST A WORTHLESS FLIRT! NOW WILL YOU COME BACK WITH ME AND...
FOR THE LOVE OF PETE, DELLA, WILL YOU PLEASE STOP THAT CONSTANT BABBLING! VENUS... CHOOSE! TELL US WHICH ONE IS RIGHT!


YES, VENUS, WE'VE GOT TO KNOW-- TELL THIS PUNK TO GO BACK WHERE HE CAME FROM!
WELL, I... I...
WHAT CAN VENUS DO? SHE DOESN'T WANT TO CHASE WHITNEY... HE'S THE ONE SHE LOVES, AND YET-- HER TASK OF BRINGING GEORGE AND RONA TOGETHER ISN'T DONE YET! ONLY THE GODS CAN HELP HER NOW, IN THIS DREAD MOMENT OF DECISION!


BUT JUST THEN FATE DOES STEP IN, IN THE FORM OF DR. HARDEN...
GENTLEMEN... PLEASE! THERE'S A VERY SICK YOUNG LADY IN THIS HOUSE-- YOUR BICKERING WILL DISTURB HER!
SICK? SOMEONE IS SICK? IS IT... RONA FLANDERS?
YOU REMEMBER, GEORGE?
GEORGE? YOUR NAME IS GEORGE? IS IT POSSIBLE THAT YOU'RE THE ONE SHE KEEPS CALLING FOR? IF YOU ARE, YOU CAN SAVE HER LIFE, YOUNG MAN! SHE... NEEDS YOU... SHE CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT YOU!
YES, THIS IS THE MAN! GO TO HER, GEORGE--LET HER KNOW YOU'VE COME BACK!
RONA... SICK... DYING! SHE'S SO YOUNG ...SO PRETTY!
SILENTLY GEORGE AND VENUS GO INTO THE SICK-ROOM, AND THE WAN FIGURE ON THE BED STIRS... SPEAKS...
GEORGE... OH, GEORGE...
SPEAK TO HER!
YES, RONA... I'M HERE!
THE EYES OPEN... LIGHT UP! THERE IS A SUDDEN GLOW TO THE COLOR OF HER CHEEKS AND LIFE COMES SURGING BACK TO RONA FLANDERS!
GEORGE! OH, MY DARLING, YOU'VE COME BACK TO ME! YOU'VE COME BACK!
TAKE HER IN YOUR ARMS, GEORGE-- TELL HER YOU LOVE HER!
VENUS, I CAN'T! IT'S *YOU* I LOVE!
I CANNOT... I DON'T LOVE HER! I WISH I DID, SO SHE COULD LIVE! BUT I DON'T LOVE HER! IT'S YOU I LOVE, VENUS! OH... WHAT SHALL I DO? I'M A MURDERER... A MURDERER!
IT'S NOT... TRUE! HE'S... NOT HERE... I ONLY IMAGINED HE WAS!
VENUS, YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU? I USED TO BE A CHEAT AND A LIAR... IT WAS EASY FOR ME TO TELL ANY WOMAN THAT I LOVED HER! BUT I CAN'T LIE ANY MORE-- KNOWING YOU HAS CHANGED ALL THAT! I CAN'T TELL RONA I LOVE HER WHEN I DON'T! NOT... EVEN... TO... SAVE... HER... LIFE!
GEORGE... GEORGE!
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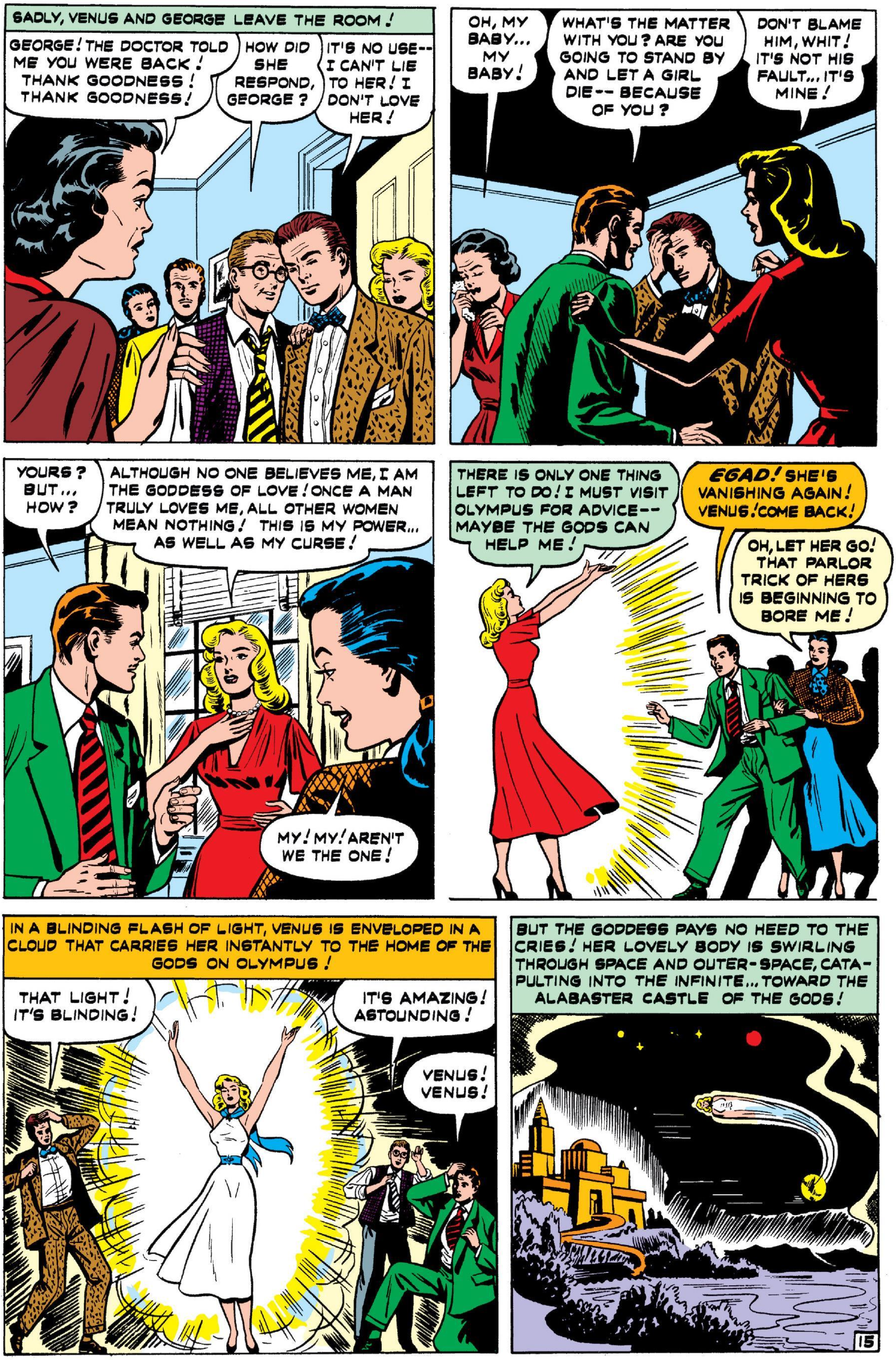
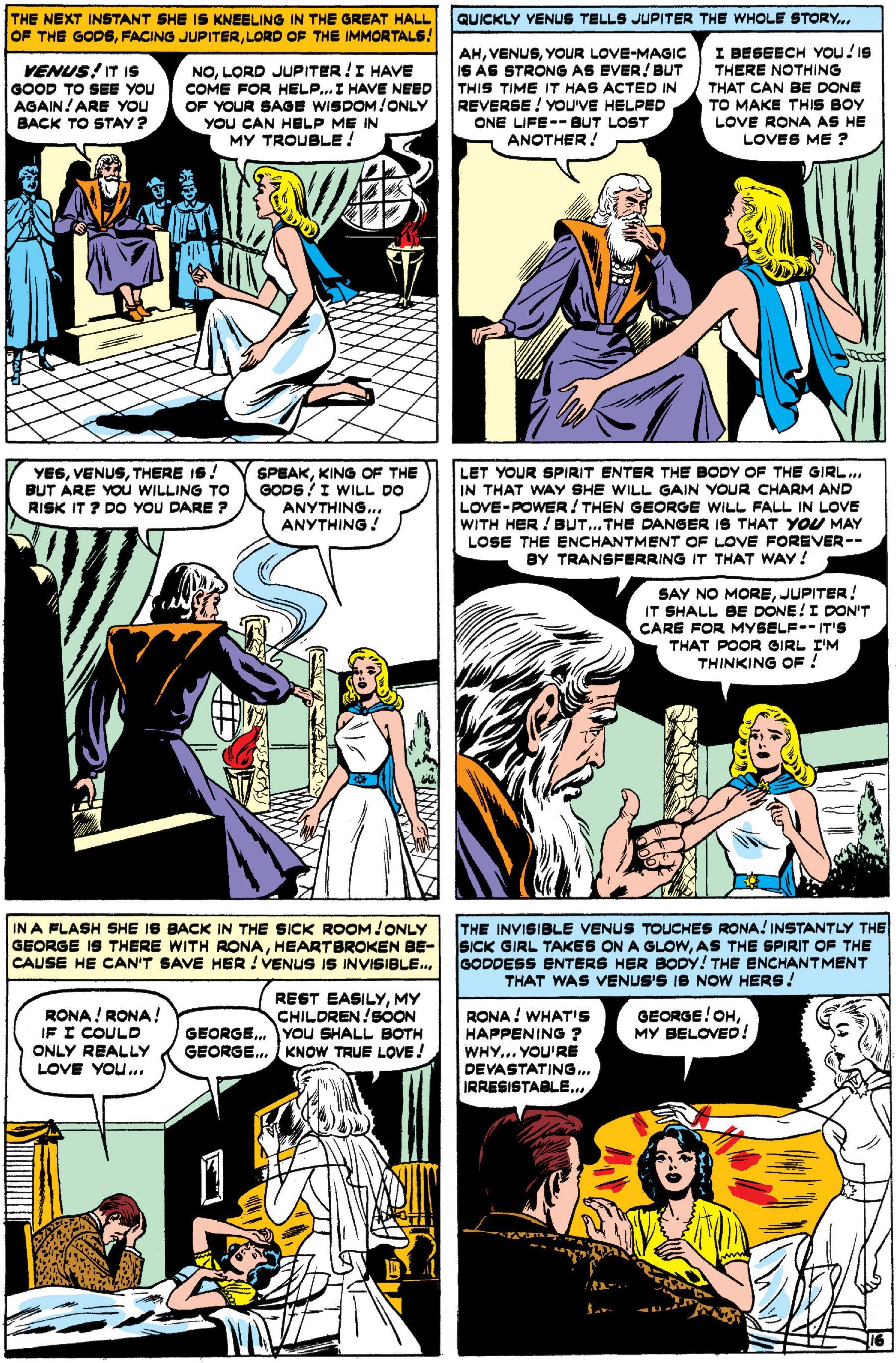
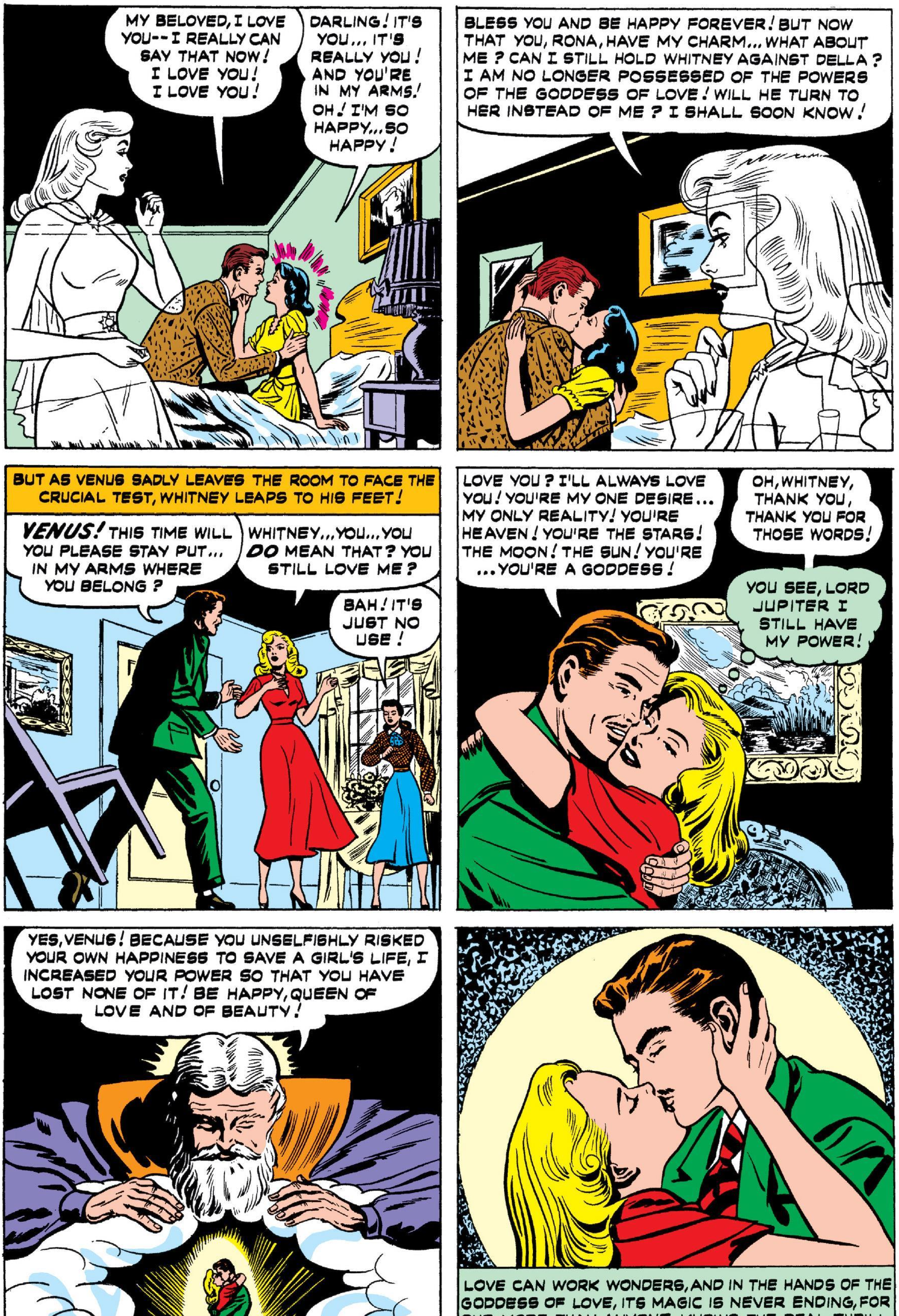

SADLY, VENUS AND GEORGE LEAVE THE ROOM!
GEORGE! THE DOCTOR TOLD ME YOU WERE BACK! THANK GOODNESS! THANK GOODNESS!
HOW DID SHE RESPOND, GEORGE?
IT'S NO USE-- I CAN'T LIE TO HER! I DON'T LOVE HER!
OH, MY BABY... MY BABY!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? ARE YOU GOING TO STAND BY AND LET A GIRL DIE-- BECAUSE OF YOU?
DON'T BLAME HIM, WHIT! IT'S NOT HIS FAULT... IT'S MINE!
YOURS? BUT... HOW?
ALTHOUGH NO ONE BELIEVES ME, I AM THE GODDESS OF LOVE! ONCE A MAN TRULY LOVES ME, ALL OTHER WOMEN MEAN NOTHING! THIS IS MY POWER... AS WELL AS MY CURSE!
MY! MY! AREN'T WE THE ONE!
THERE IS ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO DO! I MUST VISIT OLYMPUS FOR ADVICE-- MAYBE THE GODS CAN HELP ME!
EGAD! SHE'S VANISHING AGAIN! VENUS! COME BACK!
OH, LET HER GO! THAT PARLOR TRICK OF HERS IS BEGINNING TO BORE ME!
IN A BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHT, VENUS IS ENVELOPED IN A CLOUD THAT CARRIES HER INSTANTLY TO THE HOME OF THE GODS ON OLYMPUS!
THAT LIGHT! IT'S BLINDING!
IT'S AMAZING! ASTOUNDING!
VENUS! VENUS!
BUT THE GODDESS PAYS NO HEED TO THE CRIES! HER LOVELY BODY IS SWIRLING THROUGH SPACE AND OUTER-SPACE, CATAPULTING INTO THE INFINITE... TOWARD THE ALABASTER CASTLE OF THE GODS!


THE NEXT INSTANT SHE IS KNEELING IN THE GREAT HALL OF THE GODS, FACING JUPITER, LORD OF THE IMMORTALS!
VENUS! IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN! ARE YOU BACK TO STAY?
NO, LORD JUPITER! I HAVE COME FOR HELP... I HAVE NEED OF YOUR SAGE WISDOM! ONLY YOU CAN HELP ME IN MY TROUBLE!
QUICKLY VENUS TELLS JUPITER THE WHOLE STORY...
AH, VENUS, YOUR LOVE-MAGIC IS AS STRONG AS EVER! BUT THIS TIME IT HAS ACTED IN REVERSE! YOU'VE HELPED ONE LIFE-- BUT LOST ANOTHER!
I BESEECH YOU! IS THERE NOTHING THAT CAN BE DONE TO MAKE THIS BOY LOVE RONA AS HE LOVES ME?
YES, VENUS, THERE IS! BUT ARE YOU WILLING TO RISK IT? DO YOU DARE?
SPEAK, KING OF THE GODS! I WILL DO ANYTHING... ANYTHING!
LET YOUR SPIRIT ENTER THE BODY OF THE GIRL... IN THAT WAY SHE WILL GAIN YOUR CHARM AND LOVE-POWER! THEN GEORGE WILL FALL IN LOVE WITH HER! BUT... THE DANGER IS THAT *YOU* MAY LOSE THE ENCHANTMENT OF LOVE FOREVER-- BY TRANSFERRING IT THAT WAY!
SAY NO MORE, JUPITER! IT SHALL BE DONE! I DON'T CARE FOR MYSELF-- IT'S THAT POOR GIRL I'M THINKING OF!
IN A FLASH SHE IS BACK IN THE SICK ROOM! ONLY GEORGE IS THERE WITH RONA, HEARTBROKEN BECAUSE HE CAN'T SAVE HER! VENUS IS INVISIBLE...
RONA! RONA! IF I COULD ONLY REALLY LOVE YOU...
GEORGE... GEORGE...
REST EASILY, MY CHILDREN! SOON YOU SHALL BOTH KNOW TRUE LOVE!
THE INVISIBLE VENUS TOUCHES RONA! INSTANTLY THE SICK GIRL TAKES ON A GLOW, AS THE SPIRIT OF THE GODDESS ENTERS HER BODY! THE ENCHANTMENT THAT WAS VENUS'S IS NOW HERS!
RONA! WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHY... YOU'RE DEVASTATING... IRRESISTABLE...
GEORGE! OH, MY BELOVED!


MY BELOVED, I LOVE YOU-- I REALLY CAN SAY THAT NOW! I LOVE YOU! I LOVE YOU!
DARLING! IT'S YOU... IT'S REALLY YOU! AND YOU'RE IN MY ARMS! OH! I'M SO HAPPY... SO HAPPY!
BLESS YOU AND BE HAPPY FOREVER! BUT NOW THAT YOU, RONA, HAVE MY CHARM... WHAT ABOUT ME? CAN I STILL HOLD WHITNEY AGAINST DELLA? I AM NO LONGER POSSESSED OF THE POWERS OF THE GODDESS OF LOVE! WILL HE TURN TO HER INSTEAD OF ME? I SHALL SOON KNOW!
BUT AS VENUS SADLY LEAVES THE ROOM TO FACE THE CRUCIAL TEST, WHITNEY LEAPS TO HIS FEET!
VENUS! THIS TIME WILL YOU PLEASE STAY PUT... IN MY ARMS WHERE YOU BELONG?
WHITNEY... YOU... YOU DO MEAN THAT? YOU STILL LOVE ME?
BAH! IT'S JUST NO USE!
LOVE YOU? I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU! YOU'RE MY ONE DESIRE... MY ONLY REALITY! YOU'RE HEAVEN! YOU'RE THE STARS! THE MOON! THE SUN! YOU'RE ...YOU'RE A GODDESS!
OH, WHITNEY, THANK YOU, THANK YOU FOR THOSE WORDS!
YOU SEE, LORD JUPITER I STILL HAVE MY POWER!
YES, VENUS! BECAUSE YOU UNSELFISHLY RISKED YOUR OWN HAPPINESS TO SAVE A GIRL'S LIFE, I INCREASED YOUR POWER SO THAT YOU HAVE LOST NONE OF IT! BE HAPPY, QUEEN OF LOVE AND OF BEAUTY!
LOVE CAN WORK WONDERS, AND IN THE HANDS OF THE GODDESS OF LOVE, ITS MAGIC IS NEVER ENDING, FOR SHE, MORE THAN ANYONE, KNOWS THE REAL THRILL OF ROMANCE... KNOWS THAT LOVE, TO BE ENDURING, MUST BE UNSELFISH!
THE END

LOVE ARRIVES ON TIME

I RAISED my head from my dampened pillow to look out of my window, and I wondered why I should continue to live. There seemed no chance that I could ever be happy. My life was a routine of being tied to a dark, dreary coal mining town and an aunt who made me a slave to the house and my job.

Goodness knows, she had done little enough for me all the time I had lived with her, but in her twisted mind, I knew she thought I owed her everything. My father died in a cave-in in 1939, and the company had paid my aunt, as my guardian, a pension. I really owed her nothing, but every time I decided to leave, she treated me just a little nicer, and I would feel sorry for her and stay on.

Oh, how I wanted to go away! I was young, ambitious, and attractive, but Aunt Matilda made me stay aloof from the town, and feel somehow as if I were different. She was just shrewd enough to play on my sympathies whenever I showed signs of becoming restless, and there was nothing to do, but to remain "a little while longer." Those "little whiles" stretched and now I was nineteen years old and having no fun while doing the housework in the mornings and working in a dress shop in the afternoons. Each Saturday I brought my pay check so my aunt could hoard it, even though she had an income of her own to live on.

There were no boys I cared about in Wellington. I hated those Saturday nights at a roadhouse, watching your escort get high and trying to reason with him to take you home when he seemed about to start a brawl. I always tried desperately to imagine him a much nicer boy, the kind you dreamed of meeting, if you were lucky enough to live somewhere else. Those were my schoolgirl's dreams.

Now I didn't even have a dream. I had completely stopped dating the boys around Wellington and stopped going out at all. At my age, they wanted a wife, but not as an equal, a companion, someone to respect and to love, but someone to keep the house clean. They wanted a cook, laundress, and a nurse maid to care for their needs.

Aunt Matilda called from downstairs. She must have known what I was thinking that day, because her voice was sweet and considerate, not at all of its normal shrillness when she snapped at me.

"Kathleen, do you know that tonight is the company's dance? Don't you think we should go? There may be lots of nice young men there."

The company dance! Lots of nice young men! I knew better! But I was too desperately lonely to care.

"Yes, Aunt Matilda, let's go," I said. "Perhaps there *will* be some nice people there."

On the way over to the dance that night, Aunt Matilda began her favorite subject again; how dangerous the big cities were, and how she would never allow me to leave her house until I was safely married to a nice, Wellington boy. I laughed inwardly at the thought of there being a *nice,* Wellington boy. I knew there was no such person, just as I knew in my heart that Aunt Matilda didn't care about seeing me happy and away from home.

To my surprise there *was* someone nice at the dance, a boy named Bill Cooper, and my entire life suddenly switched direction, and took on meaning.

Bill and I spent the whole evening together, dancing, laughing, talking, drinking that sweet party punch, and enjoying every minute of the dance. Bill was a Wellington boy, but so different from what I had always known! So sure of himself, confident, and enthusiastic about everything he saw and heard. Bill was handsome too, with wavy hair, deep brown eyes, and a smile that made my world sing.

Bill walked home that evening with Aunt Matilda and me. Aunt Matilda made coffee, talked with us a while, and then, snorting that it was late, she went to bed. The minute she left the room, Bill took me in his strong arms, and kissed me tenderly. My heart melted and I thought I felt faint from the sudden lightness that swept over me. I feared nothing now. I just prayed that Bill would never let this moment end.

My head stopped whirling when Bill suddenly held me away from him with mock seriousness.

"All I want to know now, young lady, is whether I may see you tomorrow," he asked, "and the day after, and the day after, and the day after that . . . and if you stay as lovely as you are now, maybe some more days after that?"

I laughed as I realized that our embrace had lasted only a second and that in Bill's arms I saw a bright, new world, built around Bill Cooper.

"Yes, Bill, tomorrow, and the day after, and as many days as you want. I love tonight, Bill, as I have never loved any other evening in my life."

Bill and I talked a lot about ourselves the next day. Bill had been away for four years, studying mining at the university, and now he had a wonderful job with the company as an engineer.

I told Bill about Aunt Matilda, and how I hated her. He held me in his arms as I told how I had so often wanted to leave. He kissed me and said how glad he was that something had made me stay in Wellington, until he had found me.

Several glorious weeks passed for Bill and me, and one wonderful evening he reminded me, "You have stayed so lovely. I couldn't ask for more."

As he put his arm around me and held me tightly I felt the beat of his heart through my tense body.

"Will you marry me, Kathleen darling?" he asked. "I know now that I will love you as long as I live."

I was weak with delight. At last I'd have the love and affection that were always missing from my life.

With Bill's strong hand on mine to give me courage, I faced the terrible task of telling Aunt Matilda that I was leaving her home forever.

But there was no need to fear Aunt Matilda's wrath, because she wept with joy when she congratulated me!

"Kathleen, darling, this is just what I wanted for you."

I could scarcely believe my ears, as Aunt Matilda went on to say, "I knew that a girl like you would never be happy with just a career in the big city, you simply had to have a man of your own type here at home. It hurt me to be so strict with you, but I had to keep you from falling into the rut of a small town, and marrying the wrong man. I had to keep you as sweet as you are for the *right* man, a man like Bill Cooper.

"And your wedding present, my dear, is this house that was your father's, and all the pension money I received for your support. I *never* spent a cent of it."

Bill and I have the house to ourselves now. But at least once a week, we have a very special, honored guest for dinner—our wonderful Aunt Matilda. And Aunt Matilda will soon have another Cooper to visit. I hope it's a boy so I can call him Bill, and Aunt Matilda hopes so too. She needs someone to love just as I needed someone to love, and if it had not been for my misunderstanding her, we could have shared our love much sooner.

THE END 5437

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946

of Venus published Bimonthly at New York, N. Y., for October 1, 1949.

State of New York }
County of New York } ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Robert Solomon, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Business Manager of the Venus and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily, weekly, semiweekly or triweekly newspaper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the acts of March 3, 1933, and July 2, 1946 (section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations), printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Leading Comic Corp., 350 5th Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.; Editor, Stan Lee, 350 5th Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.; Managing Editor, Martin Goodman, 350 5th Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.; Business Manager, Robert Solomon, 350 5th Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.)
Leading Comic Corp., 350 5th Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.; Martin Goodman, 350 5th Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.)

None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

5. That the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the twelve months preceding the date shown above is .... (This information is required from daily, weekly, semiweekly, and triweekly newspapers only.)

(Signed) ROBERT SOLOMON.

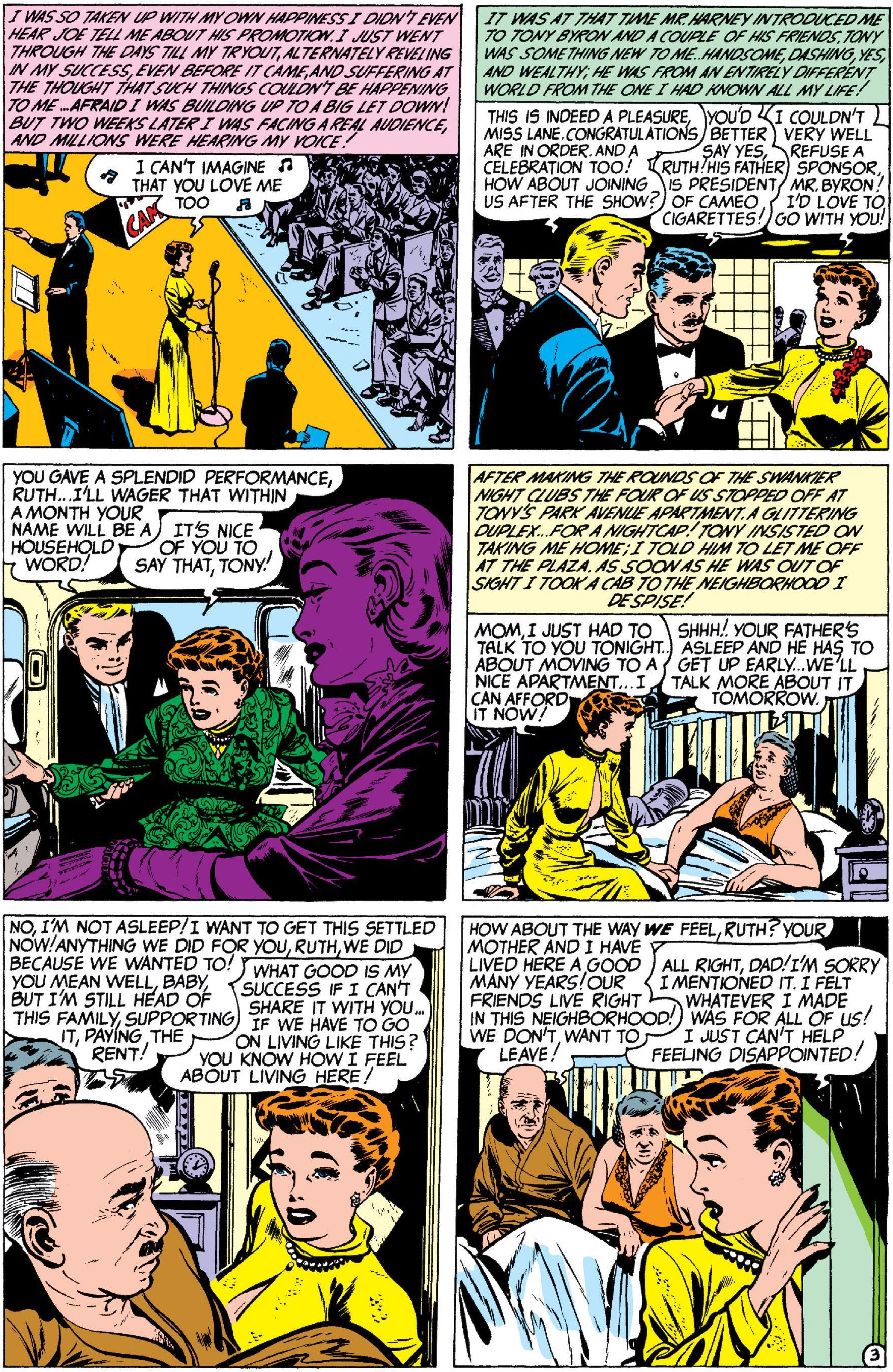
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 13th day of September, 1949.

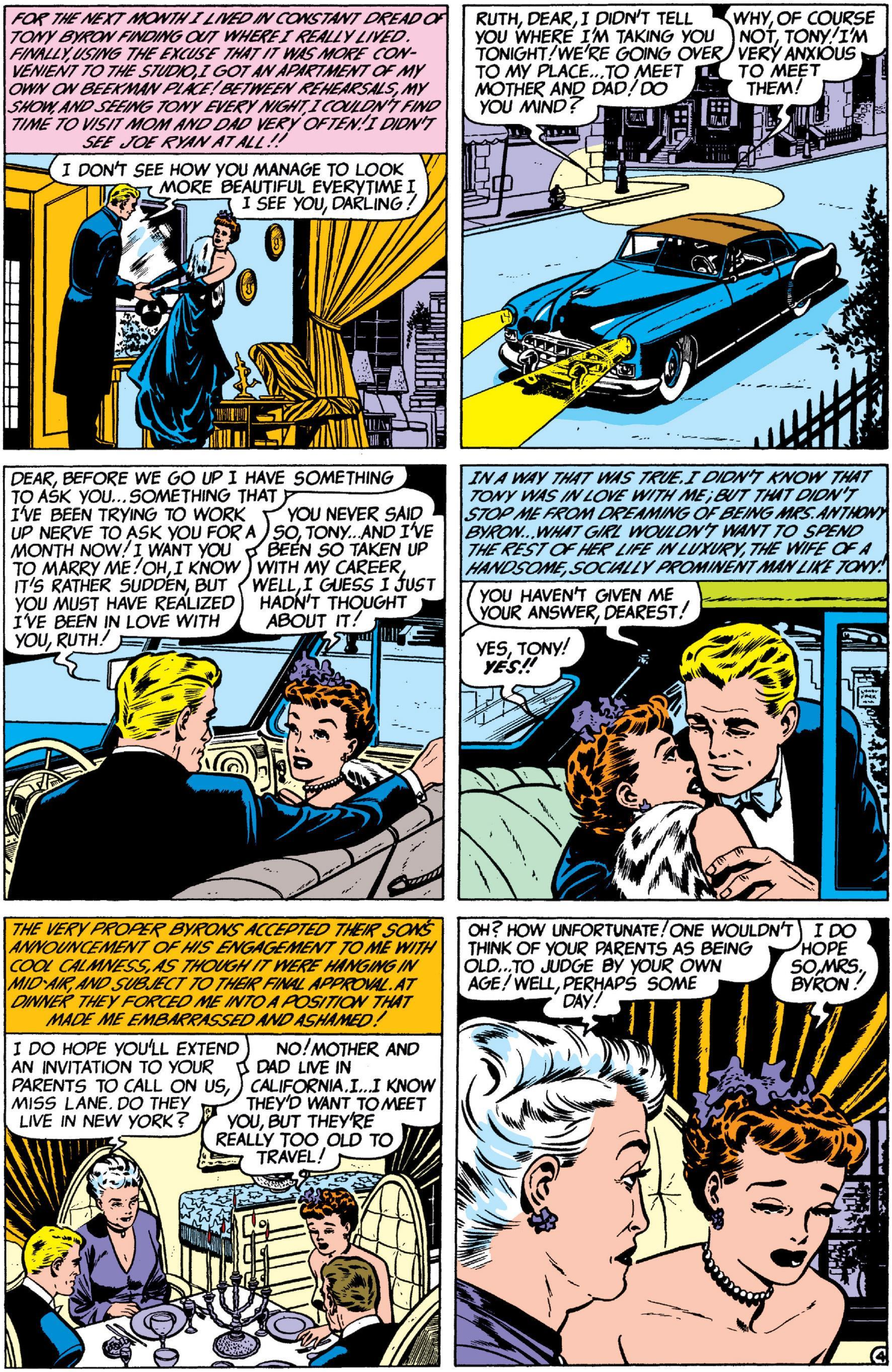
(SEAL) PETER F. ZIMMER.
(My commission expires March 30, 1951.)

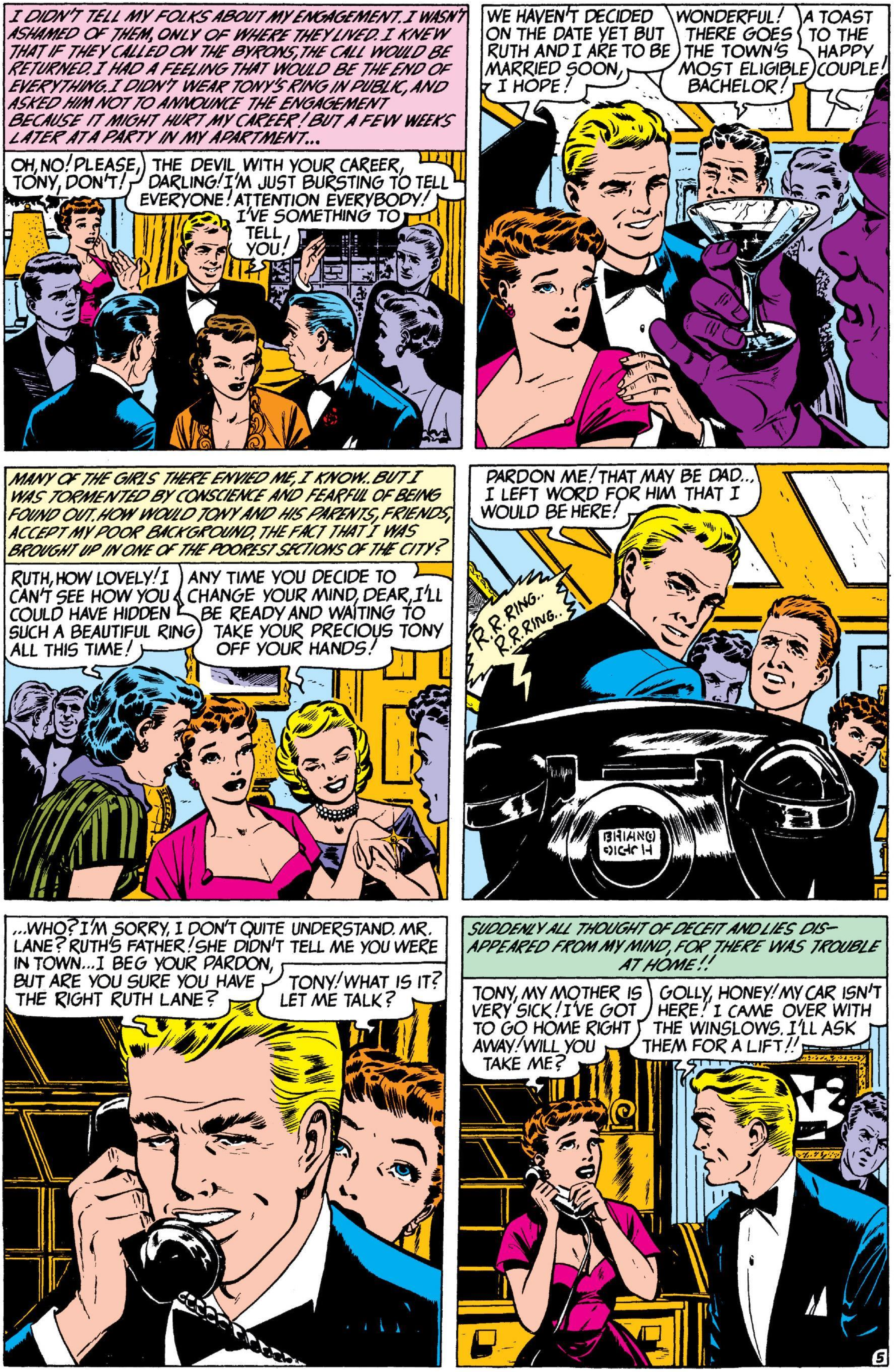
Without Love

TRUE-TO-LIFE ROMANCE
A VENUS SPECIAL
7021
JOE RYAN AND I HAD BEEN IN LOVE SINCE HIGH SCHOOL DAYS, BUT I ALWAYS FOUND SOME EXCUSE FOR TURNING HIM DOWN WHEN HE PROPOSED..IT WAS DIFFICULT TO CHOOSE BETWEEN MARRIAGE WITH A POOR MAN, AND A CAREER THAT WAS STILL A DREAM!
I DO LOVE YOU, JOE, BUT THAT STILL ISN'T ENOUGH OF A REASON FOR GETTING MARRIED..JUST LOOK AROUND! DO YOU THINK I'M GOING TO GO ON LIVING IN THIS MESS, AND MAYBE BRING MY FAMILY UP IN IT?
FOR JUST A LITTLE WHILE, DEAR! I TOLD YOU I'M NEXT IN LINE FOR A FOREMAN'S JOB AT THE PLANT! I'LL BE MAKING ENOUGH FOR US TO LIVE BETTER!
IT'S MORE THAN THAT. I'VE GOT AMBITION TO BE MORE THAN JUST A WIFE. DAD AND MOM COULD HAVE HAD THINGS A LOT BETTER FOR THEMSELVES, BUT THEY SACRIFICED THEIR COMFORTS TO GIVE ME SINGING LESSONS!
YEAH...I KNOW, BEING A GOOD WIFE ISN'T YOUR IDEA OF SUCCESS...YOU'RE GOING TO BE A BIG STAR... OKAY, RUTH, I'LL BE ASKING YOU AGAIN. MAYBE!
I SUPPOSE JOE MIGHT HAVE BEEN BROKEN-HEARTED; THAT DIDN'T BOTHER ME. I HAD MY EYES ON A STAR, AND NOTHING WAS GOING TO DISTRACT ME FROM MY PURPOSE!
JOE'S A NICE FELLOW, RUTHIE! LOTS OF GIRLS MARRY...AND HAVE CAREERS TOO!
IT'S USUALLY THE OTHER WAY, DAD! THEY MAKE GOOD FIRST, THEN MARRY..I DON'T WANT TO BE STUCK IN THIS DUMPY TENEMENT, COOKING THREE MEALS A DAY!
THAT ISN'T NICE, RUTH! YOUR FATHER AND I HAVE BEEN VERY HAPPY HERE! SURE, WE COULD HAVE MOVED TO A NICER SECTION, BUT THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS!
I'M SORRY, DARLING, YOU'VE GIVEN ME SO MUCH! BUT I CAN'T HELP HATING IT HERE! I'LL REPAY YOU FOR EVERYTHING SOMEDAY, YOU'LL SEE!
1

GEORGE FLETCHER WAS THE BIGGEST BOOKING AGENT IN NEW YORK..I WAS LUCKY TO HAVE HIM EVEN THINK I HAD POSSIBILITIES. MY FIRST BIG CHANCE CAME ABOUT A WEEK AFTER JOE'S LAST PROPOSAL!
WELL, HARNEY... WHAT DO YOU THINK?
NOT BAD, FLETCH.. NOT BAD AT ALL!
THAT'S HIGH PRAISE FROM BILL HARNEY, RUTH! HE'S ABOUT THE TOUGHEST MAN I KNOW TO IMPRESS!
DON'T LET FLETCH MISLEAD YOU! I'M NOTHING MORE THAN A TALENT SCOUT FOR AN ADVERTISING AGENCY... BUT IF MY RECOMMENDATION MEANS ANYTHING YOU'LL BE GETTING A TRYOUT FOR THE CAMEO CIGARETTE HOUR!!
I DON'T KNOW HOW I GOT HOME THAT MORNING! I FLOATED ON AIR! JANE WARD WAS LEAVING THE CAMEO HOUR FOR HOLLYWOOD AND THERE WAS AN OPENING, ONE OF THE BIGGEST SPOTS IN RADIO!
MOM! THEY LIKED ME...MR. HARNEY AND MR. FLETCHER! HE WINKED, MR. FLETCHER DID. THAT WAS ALMOST LIKE SAYING THE JOB WAS MINE! CAMEO CIGARETTES, MOM! WHERE'S DAD?
FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, RUTH! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! YOU KNOW YOUR FATHER'S AT WORK! NOW CALM DOWN AND TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT!
OH, MOM! I'M GOING TO GET A TRYOUT FOR THE SINGING LEAD ON THE CAMEO CIGARETTE HOUR. THE MAN FROM THEIR ADVERTISING AGENCY LIKED ME AND MR. FLETCHER WINKED, AS IF TO SAY I'M IN!
I KNOW IT MEANS A LOT TO YOU, DEAR... DON'T LOSE YOUR BALANCE, THOUGH. THAT'S WHAT YOUR DAD AND I WANT!
THAT NIGHT AFTER TELLING DAD THE GOOD NEWS I RAN NEXT DOOR TO SEE JOE, BUT BEFORE I HAD A CHANCE TO SAY ANYTHING HE WAS TELLING ME ABOUT HIMSELF!
I WAS GOING TO SAVE IT TILL I COULD BRING HOME MY FIRST PAY CHECK AND SHOW IT TO YOU..BUT IT'S TOO HARD TO KEEP A SECRET..RUTH! THEY MADE ME FOREMAN TODAY. THIRTY BUCKS MORE A WEEK! NOW WE CAN GET...
JOE, I'M GETTING A TRYOUT FOR A RADIO PROGRAM! THE CAMEO HOUR! I MADE IT, JOE, THE JOB IS AS GOOD AS MINE!
OH, WELL, I GUESS THAT'S THAT..THAT KIND OF WASHES UP ALL MY DREAMS. GOOD LUCK, RUTH!
YOU DON'T LOOK VERY HAPPY ABOUT MY GETTING A BREAK, JOE! DON'T YOU REALIZE IT'S EVERYTHING I'VE EVER WANTED?


I WAS SO TAKEN UP WITH MY OWN HAPPINESS I DIDN'T EVEN HEAR JOE TELL ME ABOUT HIS PROMOTION. I JUST WENT THROUGH THE DAYS TILL MY TRYOUT, ALTERNATELY REVELING IN MY SUCCESS, EVEN BEFORE IT CAME, AND SUFFERING AT THE THOUGHT THAT SUCH THINGS COULDN'T BE HAPPENING TO ME ...AFRAID I WAS BUILDING UP TO A BIG LET DOWN! BUT TWO WEEKS LATER I WAS FACING A REAL AUDIENCE, AND MILLIONS WERE HEARING MY VOICE!
♫ I CAN'T IMAGINE ♫ THAT YOU LOVE ME TOO ♫
CAM
IT WAS AT THAT TIME MR. HARNEY INTRODUCED ME TO TONY BYRON AND A COUPLE OF HIS FRIENDS. TONY WAS SOMETHING NEW TO ME..HANDSOME, DASHING, YES, AND WEALTHY; HE WAS FROM AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT WORLD FROM THE ONE I HAD KNOWN ALL MY LIFE!
THIS IS INDEED A PLEASURE, MISS LANE. CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER. AND A CELEBRATION TOO! HOW ABOUT JOINING US AFTER THE SHOW?
YOU'D BETTER SAY YES, RUTH! HIS FATHER IS PRESIDENT OF CAMEO CIGARETTES!
I COULDN'T VERY WELL REFUSE A SPONSOR, MR. BYRON! I'D LOVE TO GO WITH YOU!
YOU GAVE A SPLENDID PERFORMANCE, RUTH...I'LL WAGER THAT WITHIN A MONTH YOUR NAME WILL BE A HOUSEHOLD WORD!
IT'S NICE OF YOU TO SAY THAT, TONY!
AFTER MAKING THE ROUNDS OF THE SWANKIER NIGHT CLUBS THE FOUR OF US STOPPED OFF AT TONY'S PARK AVENUE APARTMENT, A GLITTERING DUPLEX...FOR A NIGHTCAP! TONY INSISTED ON TAKING ME HOME; I TOLD HIM TO LET ME OFF AT THE PLAZA. AS SOON AS HE WAS OUT OF SIGHT I TOOK A CAB TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD I DESPISE!
MOM, I JUST HAD TO TALK TO YOU TONIGHT.. ABOUT MOVING TO A NICE APARTMENT...I CAN AFFORD IT NOW!
SHHH! YOUR FATHER'S ASLEEP AND HE HAS TO GET UP EARLY...WE'LL TALK MORE ABOUT IT TOMORROW.
NO, I'M NOT ASLEEP! I WANT TO GET THIS SETTLED NOW! ANYTHING WE DID FOR YOU, RUTH, WE DID BECAUSE WE WANTED TO! YOU MEAN WELL, BABY, BUT I'M STILL HEAD OF THIS FAMILY, SUPPORTING IT, PAYING THE RENT!
WHAT GOOD IS MY SUCCESS IF I CAN'T SHARE IT WITH YOU... IF WE HAVE TO GO ON LIVING LIKE THIS? YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT LIVING HERE!
HOW ABOUT THE WAY WE FEEL, RUTH? YOUR MOTHER AND I HAVE LIVED HERE A GOOD MANY YEARS! OUR FRIENDS LIVE RIGHT IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD! WE DON'T WANT TO LEAVE!
ALL RIGHT, DAD! I'M SORRY I MENTIONED IT. I FELT WHATEVER I MADE WAS FOR ALL OF US! I JUST CAN'T HELP FEELING DISAPPOINTED!


FOR THE NEXT MONTH I LIVED IN CONSTANT DREAD OF TONY BYRON FINDING OUT WHERE I REALLY LIVED. FINALLY, USING THE EXCUSE THAT IT WAS MORE CONVENIENT TO THE STUDIO, I GOT AN APARTMENT OF MY OWN ON BEEKMAN PLACE! BETWEEN REHEARSALS, MY SHOW, AND SEEING TONY EVERY NIGHT, I COULDN'T FIND TIME TO VISIT MOM AND DAD VERY OFTEN! I DIDN'T SEE JOE RYAN AT ALL!!
I DON'T SEE HOW YOU MANAGE TO LOOK MORE BEAUTIFUL EVERYTIME I I SEE YOU, DARLING!
RUTH, DEAR, I DIDN'T TELL YOU WHERE I'M TAKING YOU TONIGHT! WE'RE GOING OVER TO MY PLACE... TO MEET MOTHER AND DAD! DO YOU MIND?
WHY, OF COURSE NOT, TONY! I'M VERY ANXIOUS TO MEET THEM!
DEAR, BEFORE WE GO UP I HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK YOU... SOMETHING THAT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO WORK UP NERVE TO ASK YOU FOR A MONTH NOW! I WANT YOU TO MARRY ME! OH, I KNOW IT'S RATHER SUDDEN, BUT YOU MUST HAVE REALIZED I'VE BEEN IN LOVE WITH YOU, RUTH!
YOU NEVER SAID SO, TONY... AND I'VE BEEN SO TAKEN UP WITH MY CAREER, WELL, I GUESS I JUST HADN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT!
IN A WAY THAT WAS TRUE. I DIDN'T KNOW THAT TONY WAS IN LOVE WITH ME; BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP ME FROM DREAMING OF BEING MRS. ANTHONY BYRON... WHAT GIRL WOULDN'T WANT TO SPEND THE REST OF HER LIFE IN LUXURY, THE WIFE OF A HANDSOME, SOCIALLY PROMINENT MAN LIKE TONY!
YOU HAVEN'T GIVEN ME YOUR ANSWER, DEAREST!
YES, TONY! **YES!!**
THE VERY PROPER BYRONS ACCEPTED THEIR SON'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS ENGAGEMENT TO ME WITH COOL CALMNESS, AS THOUGH IT WERE HANGING IN MID-AIR, AND SUBJECT TO THEIR FINAL APPROVAL. AT DINNER THEY FORCED ME INTO A POSITION THAT MADE ME EMBARRASSED AND ASHAMED!
I DO HOPE YOU'LL EXTEND AN INVITATION TO YOUR PARENTS TO CALL ON US, MISS LANE. DO THEY LIVE IN NEW YORK?
NO! MOTHER AND DAD LIVE IN CALIFORNIA. I... I KNOW THEY'D WANT TO MEET YOU, BUT THEY'RE REALLY TOO OLD TO TRAVEL!
OH? HOW UNFORTUNATE! ONE WOULDN'T THINK OF YOUR PARENTS AS BEING OLD... TO JUDGE BY YOUR OWN AGE! WELL, PERHAPS SOME DAY!
I DO HOPE SO, MRS. BYRON!
4


I DIDN'T TELL MY FOLKS ABOUT MY ENGAGEMENT. I WASN'T ASHAMED OF THEM, ONLY OF WHERE THEY LIVED. I KNEW THAT IF THEY CALLED ON THE BYRONS, THE CALL WOULD BE RETURNED. I HAD A FEELING THAT WOULD BE THE END OF EVERYTHING. I DIDN'T WEAR TONY'S RING IN PUBLIC, AND ASKED HIM NOT TO ANNOUNCE THE ENGAGEMENT BECAUSE IT MIGHT HURT MY CAREER! BUT A FEW WEEKS LATER AT A PARTY IN MY APARTMENT...
OH, NO! PLEASE, TONY, DON'T!
THE DEVIL WITH YOUR CAREER, DARLING! I'M JUST BURSTING TO TELL EVERYONE! ATTENTION EVERYBODY! I'VE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU!
WE HAVEN'T DECIDED ON THE DATE YET BUT RUTH AND I ARE TO BE MARRIED SOON, I HOPE!
WONDERFUL! THERE GOES THE TOWN'S MOST ELIGIBLE BACHELOR!
A TOAST TO THE HAPPY COUPLE!
MANY OF THE GIRLS THERE ENVIED ME, I KNOW.. BUT I WAS TORMENTED BY CONSCIENCE AND FEARFUL OF BEING FOUND OUT. HOW WOULD TONY AND HIS PARENTS, FRIENDS, ACCEPT MY POOR BACKGROUND, THE FACT THAT I WAS BROUGHT UP IN ONE OF THE POOREST SECTIONS OF THE CITY?
RUTH, HOW LOVELY! I CAN'T SEE HOW YOU COULD HAVE HIDDEN SUCH A BEAUTIFUL RING ALL THIS TIME!
ANY TIME YOU DECIDE TO CHANGE YOUR MIND, DEAR, I'LL BE READY AND WAITING TO TAKE YOUR PRECIOUS TONY OFF YOUR HANDS!
PARDON ME! THAT MAY BE DAD... I LEFT WORD FOR HIM THAT I WOULD BE HERE!
R.R.RING.. R.R.RING..
...WHO? I'M SORRY, I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND. MR. LANE? RUTH'S FATHER! SHE DIDN'T TELL ME YOU WERE IN TOWN... I BEG YOUR PARDON, BUT ARE YOU SURE YOU HAVE THE RIGHT RUTH LANE?
TONY! WHAT IS IT? LET ME TALK?
SUDDENLY ALL THOUGHT OF DECEIT AND LIES DISAPPEARED FROM MY MIND, FOR THERE WAS TROUBLE AT HOME!!
TONY, MY MOTHER IS VERY SICK! I'VE GOT TO GO HOME RIGHT AWAY! WILL YOU TAKE ME?
GOLLY, HONEY! MY CAR ISN'T HERE! I CAME OVER WITH THE WINSLOWS. I'LL ASK THEM FOR A LIFT!!

FILLED WITH A SENSE OF GUILT AND REMORSE, I MADE THE TRIP HOME, HARDLY CONSCIOUS OF TONY'S QUESTIONS!
MOM! MOM! WHAT HAVE I DONE TO YOU?
YOU? NOTHING, DEAR! PEOPLE GET SICK! I'LL BE ALL RIGHT! I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU!
THE DOCTOR SAYS NOT TO GET MOTHER EXCITED, RUTH! WE'D BETTER GET OUT FOR NOW!
JOE!!
OH, RUTH! I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU... I MEAN, I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR MOTHER! MY MOM SENT OVER SOME BROTH!
WHEN I LOOK BACK NOW I RECALL HOW WARM AND COMFORTABLE I FELT, BEING BACK HOME... BEING WITH JOE AGAIN! AT THE TIME, THOUGH, I WAS SHOCKED AT TONY'S ATTITUDE.. AT FINDING OUT HOW HE REALLY WAS!
WELL, I CAN'T BLAME YOU FOR LYING TO ME, RUTH. BUT YOU CAN HARDLY EXPECT ME TO... TO ASSOCIATE MYSELF AND MY FRIENDS WITH THIS SORT OF THING!
YOU MEAN IT'S ALL OFF... YOU NEEDN'T HAVE SAID ANYTHING. I CAN TELL FROM THE WAY YOU LOOK. IT ISN'T THE **NICEST** NEIGHBORHOOD, TONY, BUT WE'RE REAL PEOPLE, NOT STUFFED SHIRTS!
I'M A PRETTY LUCKY GIRL, TONY. I MIGHT HAVE MARRIED YOU... A NAME, A LOT OF MONEY, AND AN EMPTY FULL DRESS SUIT. I'VE BEEN A SNOB, AS BIG A SNOB AS YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS, TONY!
SEE HERE, RUTH... **YOU'VE** DECEIVED **ME!** VERY WELL, I'M WILLING TO FORGET IT, AND JUST BOW OUT, BUT I DON'T SEE WHY YOU SHOULD INSULT ME FOR NOT WANTING TO ASSOCIATE MYSELF WITH THESE... SLUMS!
STOP THAT! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE, JUNIOR? I DON'T LIKE TO HURRY YOU HOME, OLD BOY, BUT IT'S GETTING PAST YOUR BED-TIME!
UP TO THE TOP AND DOWN AGAIN. THAT WAS MY SHORT-LIVED CAREER. I DIDN'T WAIT FOR THE BYRONS TO CANCEL MY CONTRACT. IT JUST STOPPED MEANING ANYTHING TO ME. MOM GOT BETTER QUICKLY WITH ME HOME. AND I GUESS **I** DID, TOO, IN A DIFFERENT WAY. AT LEAST WHEN JOE ASKED ME TO MARRY HIM AGAIN I SAID **YES!**
DARLING, I'VE WAITED SO LONG! I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE YOU'RE REALLY MINE!
YOU'RE ALL I WANT NOW, DEAR. I JUST WANT TO BE **YOUR WIFE!**
The End